Carolina Bird Club
www.carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Newsletter

ISSN No. 0162-7120

For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc.,
Ornithological Society of the Carolinas

Volume 67 | February 2021 | Number 1

Spring 2021 Virtual Meeting & Birding Weekend

by Mac Williams

Dear Carolina Bird Club Members,

COVID-19 has made our triannual gatherings of club members at awesome birding locations dangerous. Our meetings have become impossible to do as we have normally done. The chance to bird with others, to get permission to bird locations with restricted access, to socialize with one another, to hear from great guest speakers, and to participate in the count-down are some of the highlights of the sense of belonging that our seasonal meetings provide.

The Executive Committee weighed the information provided to us by governmental agencies about the timeline for vaccinations, the risks of large gatherings, and the likelihood of further measures to limit the virus's spread. With all that in mind, we considered the ramifications of what could happen if someone were asymptomatic and unwittingly spread the virus to others. The potential suffering and lasting consequences far outweigh the fleeting recreation of a weekend of birding. Therefore, we must cancel our *in-person* Spring Meeting.

BUT! Notice that we said "in-person." We are going to try something innovative instead. We ask all CBC members to bird as much as they can from 6PM on Thursday April 29th (for owling or woodcocking) until 6PM on Saturday May 1st anywhere in North and South Carolina, putting all your observations into the eBird website or phone app. You may bird with others if you like, but the CBC asks that you respect the wisdom of countless medical professionals and researchers about social distancing and proper preventive measures like not riding in the same car as someone not in your family (or your "pod" as people call them). We also ask that you limit the size of any groups you put together to sizes within the limits recommended by the state health departments of the state in which you reside. Above all, be prudent!

For some additional fun, the Carolina Bird Club maintains a club eBird account (username: Carolina Bird Club), and we ask everyone to share their checklists with the CBC account, so that we can get a scope of how much birding gets done by our membership that weekend. If you are unsure how to share a checklist with someone, or how to use eBird, check out the article in our next newsletter entitled, "New to eBird? Let us Make It Work for You!"

Starting at 7:30PM on Saturday May 1st, the CBC will invite all members to attend a Zoom meeting in which we'll have a guest speaker (we're still working on that!), after which we'll conduct the countdown and see how many species we will have seen at our virtual meeting, anywhere in the Carolinas, on land, sea, or air.

We hope that by Autumn the COVID situation will have improved enough so that we will be able to have our annual Fall Meeting in-person, like normal. But, for now, please join us in our first-ever Spring Virtual Meeting! We hope to see you "there."

In this Issue

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- Hummingbird Banding
- New Members
- Young Birders

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CBC Newsletter (USPS# 023-534), February 2021, Volume 67, Number 1 Published bimonthly by the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *CBC Newsletter*, Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374.

Spring 2021 Virtual Meeting & Birding Weekend *(continued from page 1)*

by Mac Williams

To provide some additional motivation, the Executive Committee is offering prizes for CBC members, along with separate prizes for CYBC members, for eBird lists from the 48-hour Virtual Meeting with the:

1. Highest number of photographs of correctly-identified species (photographs must be taken during the meeting, and metadata can be used to confirm eligibility).
2. Highest number of sound recordings of correctly-identified species. The recordings must be made during the meeting. (.WAV files will be the only acceptable format for sound recordings, as they are the only ones accepted by eBird).
3. Highest number of complete checklists from the greatest number of different eBird hotspots, (only checklists submitted via the eBird app are eligible).

Finally, we are trying something new: starting with our virtual meeting, anyone who submits correctly-identified photographs **AND** sound recordings to eBird of all four Vireos that can normally be found in the Carolinas shall earn the coveted title of *Carolina Vireo Detective* (and accompanying patch), with all the rights and privileges appertaining thereunto. You do not have to obtain all the photos and recordings during the meeting, but once you do, you can apply for the title via an email (with the eBird lists attached) to hq@carolinabirdclub.org.

We will talk more about the virtual meeting in the April newsletter, but until then we wanted to let all CBC members know what the plans are and encourage everyone to remember COVID guidelines while birding with others, so we can all be healthy and ready to go when we can have our next in-person meeting.

Rufous Hummingbird Banding

by Deborah Roy

My winter visitor was identified as a male Rufous Hummingbird and was banded earlier this winter by Susan Campbell, who is the lead hummingbird researcher in North Carolina with the NC Hummingbird Research Program, a non-profit through the North Carolina Museum of Natural Science Friends. Susan is also a very active CBC member.

As part of the banding, Susan does a feather check and takes lots of measurements. She then adds a tiny dot of temporary paint on top of the bird's head to identify him. I then got to hold the bird in the palm of my hand as it flies back out to freedom.

The study of wintering hummingbird species is a very important component of what the NC Hummingbird Research Program does. They have only scratched the surface on their quest to learn more about these truly amazing creatures known as hummingbirds. The only way to preserve all species of birds for future generations is to know what they require for survival. The best way to accomplish this is to learn as much about them as possible. Banding is one of the tools in that effort.

The banding did not deter him from returning to his feeder.

The more I read about these little jewels, the more I am in awe of them and nature in general.

Newsletter Editor Needed ASAP

CBC is currently looking for a newsletter editor. Our current editor, Deborah Roy, will assist the next editor in coming onboard. They will also have assistance and support form the current executive board. If you are interested, please send an email to the CBC secretary at hq@carolinabirdclub.org

Welcome New CBC Members!

Thomas Cooney
Harrisburg, NC

Steve Taylor & JoAnn Jacoby
Washington, NC

Anne & Robert Kinter
Folly Beach, NC

Carolyn, Virginia, & Alan Ward
Fairview, NC

Strummer Edwards
Charlotte, NC

Patty Tikkala
Oriental, NC

Robin & Frank Tingley
Burnsville, NC

Jenny Swofford
Charlotte, NC

Beth Measley
Cranston, RI

Scott, Kelly, Cash, & Clyde Clackum
Mount Pleasant, SC

Ed Vigezzi
Germantown, MD

Kelly Mieszkalski
Durham, NC

Marilyn Racine
Pittsboro, NC

Will Younts
Asheville, NC

Susan Mitchell
Raleigh, NC

Aaron Edmonds
Lillington, NC

Steve Pollock
Wilmington, NC

Melanie Jerome
Johns Island, SC

Dale & Barbara Reynolds
Roaring River, NC

Upgrade to Life Membership
Jim Buxton
Mount Pleasant, SC

Joseph Turk
Oriental, NC

Chris Bame
Summerfield, NC

Charlotte Leidy
Chapel Hill, NC

Upgrade to Life Membership
Nathan Gatto
Winston-Salem, NC

Ronan Nicholson
Candler, NC

Jennifer Hemric
Winston-Salem, NC

Ronald & Nancy McFarlane
Raleigh, NC

Charles Edwards
Lumberton, NC

Amy Schaaf
Davidson, NC

Emily Reid
Winston-Salem, NC

Joe Williams
Efland, NC

Riley Heath
Dunn, NC

Chuck Toney
Southern Shores, NC

CBC Research, educational and conservation grants are available through the Carolina Bird Club. For additional information visit www.carolinabirdclub.org.

Opportunities for Young Birders

Carolina Bird Club offers scholarships for birders 19 and under living in the Carolinas, who are members of the Carolina Young Birders Club.

Scholarships provide assistance in attending bird-related events, such as camps, workshop, training programs or CBC seasonal meetings.

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Carolina Bird Club, Inc.
1809 Lakepark Drive
Raleigh, NC 27612

Periodicals Postage Paid
at Pinehurst, NC 28374
and additional mailing offices

Upcoming CBC Meetings

Spring 2021– *Cancelled*
Fall 2021- TBD
Winter 2022 - Outer Banks, NC - January 13 - 16, 2022
Spring 2022 - Black Mountain, NC - May 5 - 8, 2022

CBC Board Members

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Steve Tracy, Gastonia, NC
stevepath1@aol.com

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Guy McGrane, Deep Gap, NC
Craig Watson, Mount Pleasant, SC

Secretary
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Michael Clark, Durham, NC

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Mac Williams, Hartsville, SC

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Editor of The Chat: Steve Shultz, Apex, NC
Website Editor: Kent Fiala, Hillsborough, NC
Headquarters Secretary: Carol Bowman, Pinehurst, NC,
hq@carolinabirdclub.org
CBC Newsletter Editor: Deborah McDougall Roy, Charlotte, NC,
newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org

Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of
December, February, April, June, August, and October.

www.carolinabirdclub.org

The *CBC Newsletter* is published bimonthly by Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Founded in 1937, the membership is open to anyone interested in birds, natural history, and conservation. **Current dues are**: Individual & non-profit, $30; Family and Business, $35; Student, $15; Patron, $50 and up; Life, $500; Associate Life (in household with Life Member), $100 (both Life memberships can be paid in four annual installments).

Membership dues include access to publications: the ***CBC Newsletter*** and ***The Chat,*** *which is only available on line.* Tax deductible as allowable by law.
Cost for CBC bird checklists, including postage: 10@$5.45, 25@$13.40, 50@$27.00, and 100@$54.00.

Join the CBC at https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/dues/. Enter change of address at https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/profile/. Order checklists from: CBC Headquarters Secretary, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374.
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Volume 67 **Issue 2** **April 2021**

New to eBird? Let's Make It Work for You!

By Mac Williams

If you're unfamiliar with eBird, this brief article will help you navigate the process of beginning to use it. I recommend starting on a regular computer, opening a browser, and going to the website: *www.ebird.org*.

Once you land on that page, in the top right there is a green tab that says "Create Account." Click it, and you'll bring up a form that asks you for your first and last name, to pick a username, to enter an email address, and to choose a password. Click "submit" and then the system will send you a confirmation email. Go to your email account, open that email, click the "Activate Account" button, and a new browser window will open to your account. It will then ask you to fill in your mailing address. Once you finish and submit that, you'll go to a screen with various options for you to choose from, things like displaying either the common name or the scientific name of each species, if you want your name to appear with your list, and if you'd like your data to be publicly available or hidden. Choose the options you prefer, and then click "Save and Accept." Now you've got an eBird account!

From here you can explore a little bit, but I suggest stopping, going outside, birding for five minutes, and then coming back to the computer so you can make your first checklist submission. Along the top of the screen you'll see several options; click "Submit" (circled in *Figure 1*):

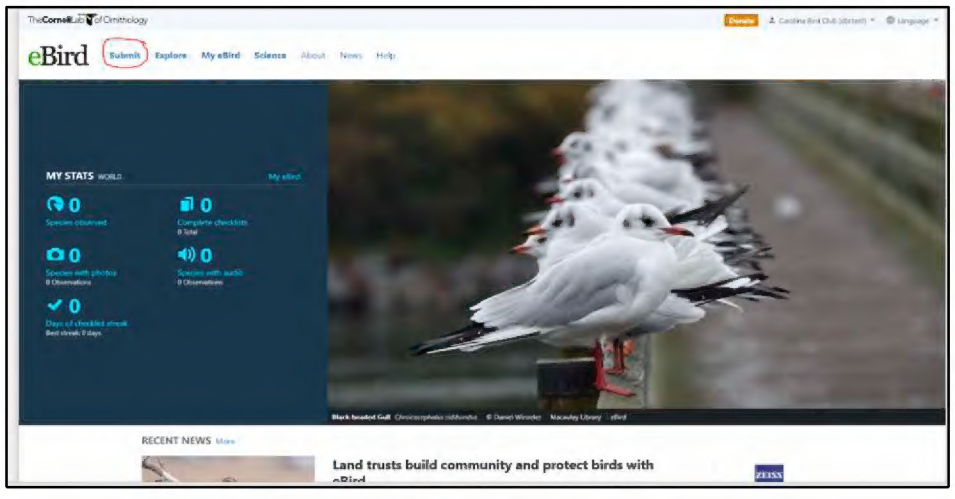

Figure 1

From there you can follow the steps, which are pretty straightforward, of choosing where you birded, when and how long, and what you saw. When you're done, you'll be asked to say whether it was a complete checklist of all the birds you were able to identify, either by sight or by sound--they do want reports of birds you only heard; you don't have to have seen a bird for it to 'count' in eBird. Once you've submitted your first checklist, you'll see the numbers on your "My eBird" section change. You can explore that data as much as you like, and you can add to it every single day!

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Once you're comfortable with the website, if you own a smartphone, you can download the eBird app (it's free) from the Apple or Google Stores. Your login will be the same as your webpage login (make sure you remember your password!), and you'll be able to enter birds in the field as your bird. The smartphone app has some extra features. For instance, it will track your exact path on a map, and you'll be able to see exactly how far you've walked/driven on an outing, and you can even edit the route if a part of it wasn't used in birding.

Please refrain from using "X" or "Present" as much as possible in eBird. They would rather you estimate how many birds there were than just telling them that they were "present." An" X" removes your checklist from being "complete" and isn't as useful to the scientists at Cornell that interpret and use this data for their research and public policy recommendations.

One nice feature is the map that will show you *Hotspots*, which are places you might not know about where you can see a variety of birds, and that are usually open to the public (there are some restricted places and some with statutory restrictions during certain seasons). If you click on the Explore tab, you'll be able to enter in country, state, or even county-level maps of hotspots.

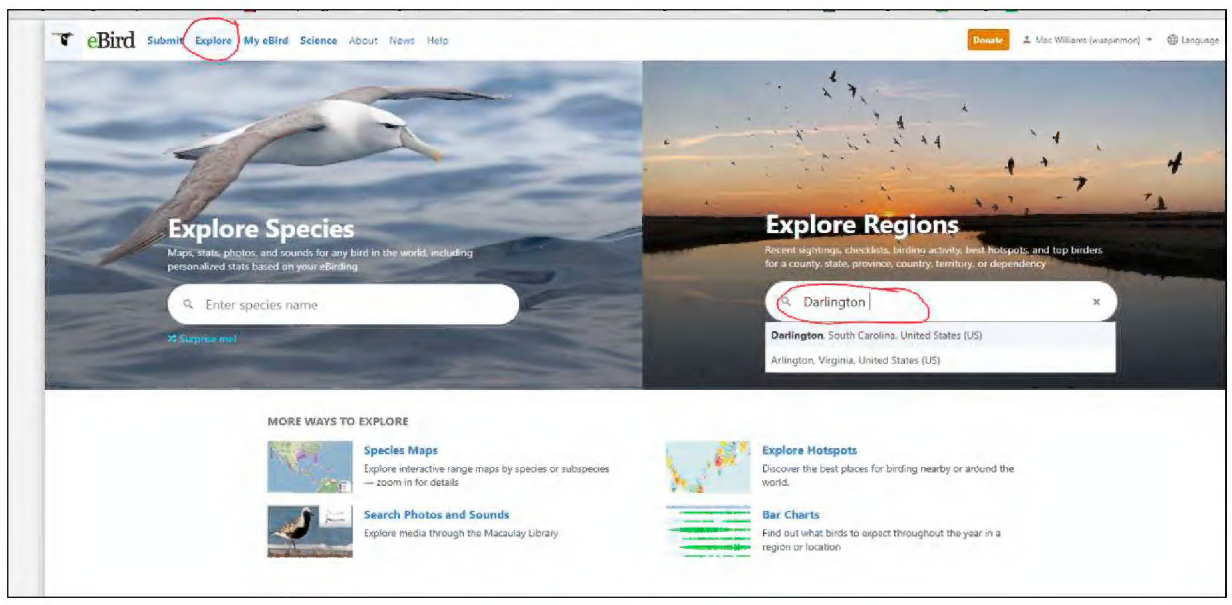
eBird
Submit
Explore
My eBird
Science
About
News
Help
Donate
Explore Species
Maps, stats, photos, and sounds for any bird in the world, including personalized stats based on your eBirding
Enter species name
Surprise me!
Explore Regions
Recent sightings, checklists, birding activity, best hotspots, and top birders for a county, state, province, country, territory, or dependency
Darlington
Darlington, South Carolina, United States (US)
Arlington, Virginia, United States (US)
MORE WAYS TO EXPLORE
Species Maps
Explore interactive range maps by species or subspecies — zoom in for details
Explore Hotspots
Discover the best places for birding nearby or around the world.
Search Photos and Sounds
Explore media through the Macaulay Library
Bar Charts
Find out what birds to expect throughout the year in a region or location

Figure 2

Once you get to the next screen, you can see the most recently seen birds in the area you selected. In this case, I chose my home county of Darlington (*Figure 2*), and in the bottom right, there is a list of hotspots (*Figure 3*). Most counties have scores of hotspots. Mine has seven because it is rural and seldom birded, but you can see their names, how many species have been seen there, and if you click on the links, you can see the list of species, when they were last seen there, and even click on a map to figure out where it is exactly.

EBird is fairly intuitive, and if you have questions, there are forums on most social media websites that can answer questions. Also, most of your fellow birders will be happy to help you get better with eBird, as we can all be citizen scientists and contribute to conservation, research, and political efforts to protect birds and their habitats.

Have fun during the "Virtual Meeting" and we hope that everyone stays healthy!

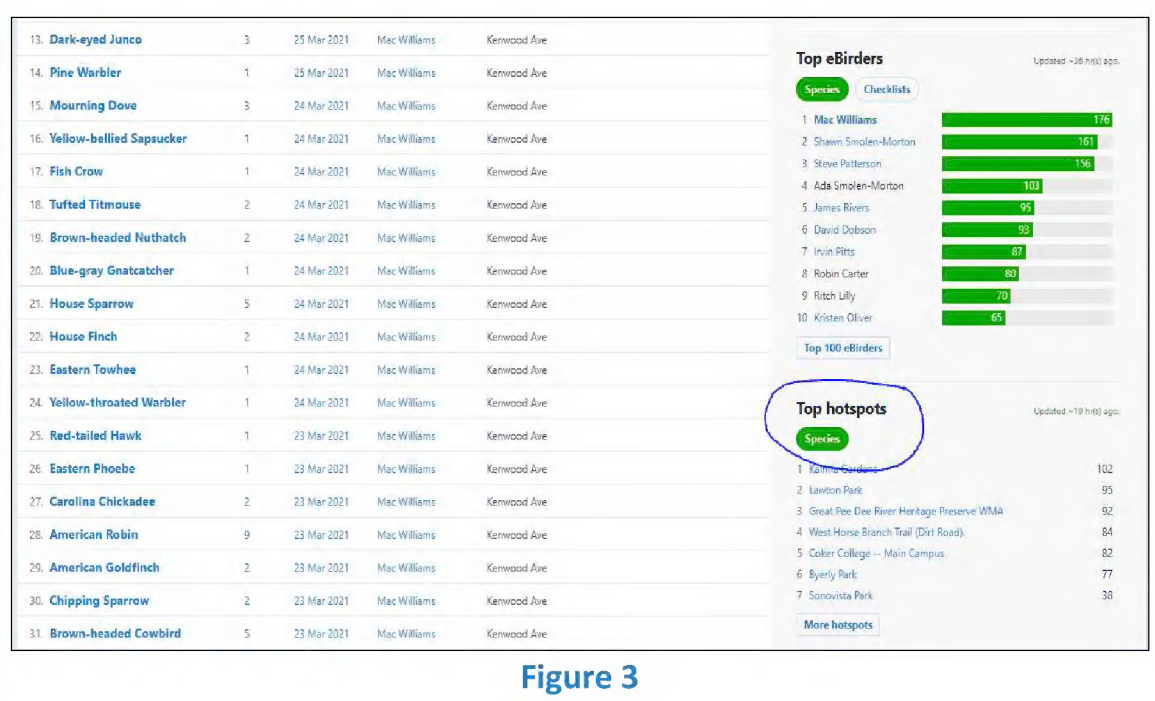
13. Dark-eyed Junco 3 25 Mar 2021 Mac Williams Kenwood Ave
14. Pine Warbler 1 25 Mar 2021 Mac Williams Kenwood Ave
15. Mourning Dove 3 24 Mar 2021 Mac Williams Kenwood Ave
16. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1 24 Mar 2021 Mac Williams Kenwood Ave
17. Fish Crow 1 24 Mar 2021 Mac Williams Kenwood Ave
18. Tufted Titmouse 2 24 Mar 2021 Mac Williams Kenwood Ave
19. Brown-headed Nuthatch 2 24 Mar 2021 Mac Williams Kenwood Ave
20. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 1 24 Mar 2021 Mac Williams Kenwood Ave
21. House Sparrow 5 24 Mar 2021 Mac Williams Kenwood Ave
22. House Finch 2 24 Mar 2021 Mac Williams Kenwood Ave
23. Eastern Towhee 1 24 Mar 2021 Mac Williams Kenwood Ave
24. Yellow-throated Warbler 1 24 Mar 2021 Mac Williams Kenwood Ave
25. Red-tailed Hawk 1 23 Mar 2021 Mac Williams Kenwood Ave
26. Eastern Phoebe 1 23 Mar 2021 Mac Williams Kenwood Ave
27. Carolina Chickadee 2 23 Mar 2021 Mac Williams Kenwood Ave
28. American Robin 9 23 Mar 2021 Mac Williams Kenwood Ave
29. American Goldfinch 2 23 Mar 2021 Mac Williams Kenwood Ave
30. Chipping Sparrow 2 23 Mar 2021 Mac Williams Kenwood Ave
31. Brown-headed Cowbird 5 23 Mar 2021 Mac Williams Kenwood Ave
Top eBirders
Species
Checklists
1 Mac Williams 176
2 Shawn Smolen-Morton 161
3 Steve Patterson 156
4 Ada Smolen-Morton 103
5 James Rivers 95
6 David Dobson 93
7 Irvin Pitts 87
8 Robin Carter 80
9 Ritch Lilly 70
10 Kristen Oliver 65
Top 100 eBirders
Top hotspots
Species
2 Lawton Park 95
3 Great Pee Dee River Heritage Preserve WMA 92
4 West Horse Branch Trail (Dirt Road) 84
5 Coker College -- Main Campus 82
6 Byerly Park 77
7 Sonovista Park 38
More hotspots

Figure 3

Carolina Bird Club Establishes Birding Heroes Program

By Craig Watson

The Carolina Bird Club has established a ***Birding Heroes Program*** to recognize individuals, families, or other entities that welcome, accommodate, and show great hospitality to the birding community, and which promotes ethical birding opportunities and/or conservation efforts. Recognition may include a number of items, including but not be limited to **1)** a free one year membership to the Carolina Bird Club (CBC), **2)** a certificate of appreciation and recognition on our website or in the CBC newsletter, and **3)** any other recognition that the Executive Committee (EC) deems appropriate.

The responsibility for these actions will be a member of the CBC and/or the Executive Committee, and

Barbara and Don Alexander with Craig Watson, Hanahan, South Carolina

Tony Hewitt, Cary, North Carolina

shall always be coordinated and approved by the EC. Any member of Carolina Bird Club or the EC may nominate a person(s) or entity for recognition through this program by writing to the Grants Committee (grants@carolinabirdclub.org).

Information should include names of individuals or entities being nominated for recognition, the primary reason (s) for the recognition, and the type of recognition the nominee recommends. The Grants Committee and the CBC Executive Committee will decide the disposition of the nomination. Receipts for any expenses incurred by the CBC member shall be reimbursed to the nominee (please retain all receipts) or paid for by funds of the CBC.

The first example of **Birding Hero** recognition was that of the Alexanders in Hanahan, South Carolina, who were recognized for their efforts and hospitality in welcoming birders to view Limpkins in their back yard. This is where Limpkins were documented nesting for the first time in South Carolina, which is well described here in our October 2020 Newsletter
(https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/newsletter/2020/2020-v66n5-October.pdf).

The second recognition with a membership and certificate was awarded to Tony Hewitt of Cary, North Carolina. Tony welcomed and hosted literally hundreds of birders to his home to view a Varied Thrush which has been visiting his yard since the first week of December and is still present.

Barbara and Don Alexander, and Tony Hewitt, are great examples of individuals who promote birding in their communities, and who have shown tremendous hospitality in welcoming birders to their yards, demonstrating what true **Birding Heroes** in the Carolina are. The Carolina Bird Club thanks you all for being our first **Birding Heroes**!

Pictured in this article are the Alexanders, receiving their certificate in their yard with the Goose Creek Reservoir in the background where the first known nesting of Limpkin occurred in South Carolina, and Tony Hewitt, who made is yard a home for the Varied Thrush and hundreds of birders.

CBC Fall Birding Weekend – Havelock, NC

Home of Marine Corps Air Station – Cherry Point

Thursday, Friday & Saturday, September 23-25, 2021

Host Venue – Days Inn & Suites, 400 US 70 W, Havelock, NC 28532

Dickcissel, Steve Creek, Flikr Creative Commons

CBC Board has been anxiously awaiting the opportunity to announce the first Birding Weekend since the Covid-19 pandemic became a major threat in March 2020. We will convene for a covid conscious social, banquet and presentation by our keynote speaker, Simon Thompson, at the Days Inn and Suites in Havelock, NC. Havelock is 25 minutes from Morehead City on the coast and 25 minutes from New Bern along the Neuse River. Both towns are tourist centers, waterfront communities with an extensive history. New Bern was once the Capital of North Carolina and Morehead City always a major shipping center. Morehead grew along with its 300+ year old neighbor, Beaufort, a whaling center of ole, and owes its prominence as the terminus of the Atlantic and NC Railroads. This web link will enlighten you to many names you will see or hear during your birding trips: https://www.morehead.com/history-of-morehead-city.html. New Bern says, "We have been preparing for your visit for over 300 years." This link of fun facts may give you a sense of the days you could spend exploring its sights: https://visitnewbern.com/fun-facts. The history in this area is enthralling and will tear at your plans to see many new life birds and familiar favorites. From famous Fort Macon on the coast to the Tryon Palace and Firemen's Museum you really should plan a few days prior to our gathering in Havelock.

We plan to provide opportunities to see by boat either the Rachael Carson Reserve or the bird-rich Shackleford Banks. A trip to Cape Lookout will be the third option in the all-day category requiring water craft. Half-day water excursions in the inland islands behind Bear Island and a trip to Bear Island are on the itinerary. Many land trips will go into habitats of the Croatan National Forest, home of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker; North River Preserve, over 8000 acres of farmland being returned to wetland habitats and; the eBird Hotspots in New Bern and nearby salt-water marsh sites. A walk on Bogue Inlet with a monitor from Emerald Isle of the site's breeding birds will be an interesting chance to also scan the beach for migrants.

A Saturday evening social hour with a wine, beer or liquor cash bar will start our only evening of activity to celebrate the long-awaited resumption of the CBC Birding Weekends. (As a sidebar here - we will

return to OBX January 2022 and to Black Rock in western NC May 2022.) A banquet will immediately follow the social and we will then hear from our Keynote Speaker, Simon Thompson. The evening ends with our count of the birds located the past two days. This will also help us plan optional trips Sunday morning as many of us prepare to travel homeward, but don't forget the local history.

These activities will occur in the common areas of our host hotel. Cost for the hotel has been arranged at $95 + taxes. Cots are not available but children in the room (a maximum of 2) are free.

One concern while details are being finalized is "How many members may attend?" Many of us will have completed the Covid vaccine series. Yet how many members may be apprehensive to attend a weekend this September? <u>This greatly affects every planning detail.</u> Please send the Weekend Coordinator Les Coble an email if you plan to attend. Use email: <u>sialia2016@gmail.com</u>

Opportunities for Young Birders

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For more information, visit www.carolinabirdclub.org

Financial Transactions Review Committee Members Needed

The Carolina Bird Club bylaws, Article VII, General Finances, state that each year the CBC Executive Committee shall appoint a Financial Transactions Review Committee composed of members not serving on the Executive Committee. This ad hoc committee shall review all of the club's financial activities for the previous year. We are looking for volunteers to serve on this ad hoc committee. Our treasurer will serve on this ad hoc committee, as a non-voting member. One of the non-Executive Committee members will then be asked to make a presentation to the Executive Committee at a future meeting regarding their findings. Please respond to Steven Tracy, President of the CBC, within 30 days of the next online publication of the CBC newsletter, if you are interested (email: stevepath1@aol.com). Thanks.

Steven Tracy, President, Carolina Bird Club

Welcome New CBC Members!

NEW LIFE MEMBER - Hunter Phillips, Holly Ridge, NC

Geneva Masters
Taylorsville, NC

John Carter
Raleigh, NC

Scott Mouw
Raleigh, NC

Jamey Eaddy
Johnsonville, SC

John, Holly, Mae & John Henry Blackman
Charlotte, NC

William & Regina Mullen
Charleston, SC

John & Wendy Stanton
Columbia, NC

Nicole Hann
Taylorsville, NC

Lisa Schiller
Asheville, NC

John Bloss
Greensboro, NC

Quintin Ellison
Sylva, NC

Paul Heitmann
Aimee Riley
Asheville, NC

Claire Seibert
Cary, NC

Jeanie & Ken McCoy
Huntersville, NC

Maura McConnell
Statesville, NC

Rebecca & James Lowdermilk
Morganton, NC

Clayton Deviney
Granite Falls, NC

Anne Albright
Greg Abashian
Chapel Hill, NC

Charles Clemmons
Durham, NC

Nancy Davis
Trinity, NC

Linda Stenzel
Tryon, NC

Nancy Doubrava
Raleigh, NC

Linda Murray
Chapel Hill, NC

Adam Short
Cary, NC

Daniel Lang
Cary, NC

Mary Morgan
Waxhaw, NC

Rick & Pat Berlet
Hendersonville, NC

Tony Hewitt
Cary, NC

David, Susan & Timothy Campbell
Shelby, NC

Lyle & Sarah Campbell
Spartanburg, SC

Pat & Jane Griffin
Washington, NC

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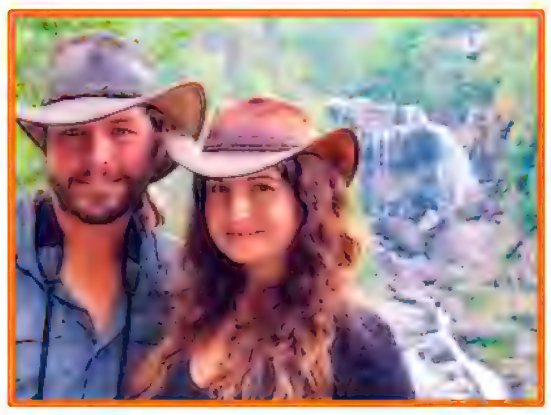
A CBC BONUS TRIP THROUGH EPIC TOURS



Paul and Amanda Laurent, owners and trip leaders of Epic Nature Tours are excited to announce a 15 day Costa Rica Trip for the CBC from January 18 - February 1, 2022. This Epic Costa Rican birding tour will take guests off the beaten path to explore two of the most incredible and remote parts of Costa Rica - the marshes of Cano Negro and the primary rainforest of the Osa Peninsula.

We begin by traveling north through the highlands to Cano Negro, which is considered to be one of the most important wetlands on earth and home to over 350 species of birds, including Jabirus and Agami Herons! Next we journey south to the Tarcoles River and Carara National Park. Situated on the border of tropical wet and dry rainforests, Carara is home to an incredible variety of birds from both habitats. We will also take a boat tour on the Tarcoles River to see giant crocodiles and to look for rare birds found only deep in the mangroves.

From here we continue south to the Osa Peninsula, which is called, *The most biologically intense place on Earth*. Osa has the highest biodiversity on the planet! First we explore the eastern side of Osa, then we travel by boat to Drake Bay on the Pacific side. This tour will let you experience some of the most amazing places in Costa Rica, and you will have the potential to see 500+ different species of birds.

Group Size: 8 Participants
Price per person (double occupancy): $3950.00
Single Supplement: $680.00
Single supplement applies to anyone staying by themselves and not sharing a room.

CONTACT EPIC TOURS AT:
INFO@EPICNATURETOURS.COM

Carolina Bird Club
www.carolinabirdclub.org

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1809 Lakepark Drive
Raleigh, NC 27612

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Guy McGrane, Boone, NC
Craig Watson, Mount Pleasant, SC

Secretary
Jill Midgett, Charleston, SC

Treasurer
Paul Dayer, Durham, NC

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Marilyn Westphal, Hendersonville, NC
Julie Lee, Nebo, NC
Michael Clark, Durham, NC

SC Members-at-Large
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Membership dues include access to publications: the *CBC Newsletter* and *The Chat, which is only available on line.* Tax deductible as allowable by law.

Cost for CBC bird checklists, including postage: 10@$5.45, 25@$13.40, 50@$27.00, and 100@$54.00.

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CBC Newsletter

ISSN No. 0162-7120

*For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc.,
Ornithological Society of the Carolinas*

Volume 67 **Issue 3** **June 2021**

CBC 2021 Virtual Spring Meeting and Birding Weekend & eBird Checklist Submission Contest Winners

This past weekend, April 29 – May 1, 2021 wasn't exactly what we had all been hoping for but, after cancelling the past three seasonal meetings and not having CBC members joining together to go birding for almost 16 months, many of us were excited to finally have a CBC sponsored birding event! For the first time ever, we had members birding for a seasonal meeting at numerous locations all across the states of both North and South Carolina.

Our keynote speaker for Saturday night's Zoom meeting was Lindsay Addison from Audubon NC, who provided an entertaining presentation on American Oystercatchers. Lindsay also showed us how a grant provided by the CBC has helped fund the acquisition of tracking equipment that is being used to provide previously unavailable information about how these wonderful birds travel within their breeding areas as well as during migration. As always happens at the conclusion of a seasonal meeting, Kent Fiala performed the countdown of bird species that were sighted during our birding weekend: 187 species.

Over the course of the weekend, we had 30 individuals submit 129 qualifying eBird checklists to the Carolina Bird Club eBird account. The winners of our checklist submission contests for the weekend were: Gretchen Locy, from Fort Mill, SC, who submitted both the "most checklists for the weekend" and also submitted the "most photographs of correctly-identified birds" with her checklists. Carl Miller, from Charleston, SC, submitted the "highest number of sound recordings of correctly-identified species" on his submitted checklists.

As Steve Tracy, our President, said, this was our first ever CBC Virtual Seasonal Meeting, and hopefully our last.

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The North Carolina Bird Atlas Project Needs Your Help

By Steve Dowlan

If you are an enthusiastic birder who lives by the maxim "People Count. Birds Count," you are ideally suited to contribute to the North Carolina Bird Atlas Project. In fact, "***People Count. Birds Count***" is the motto of the project, which was kicked off in March of 2021. By contributing regular reports that include such details as breeding codes to eBird, you have already practiced atlas procedures and protocols. With a quick change to your eBird settings so that your portal is "**North Carolina Bird Atlas**", what you are already doing for the greater eBird effort also becomes a contribution to the North Carolina Bird Atlas project.

The observations and reports from the five-year atlas project will empower researchers with a comprehensive summary of bird populations across North Carolina. The results will provide wildlife officials, land managers and conservation organizations with a critical tool to assist with making decisions and formulating important conservation decisions about the state's avian population.

Your participation can be initiated by visiting ***https://ebird.org/atlasnc/about/***, where you will discover: why the atlas project is important; who is on the Atlas Team that is directing the effort; how to get started with atlas contributions; a description of breeding codes; and, an outline of birding ethics, guidelines and safety protocols.

The NC Bird Atlas divides the state into 5,453 "atlas blocks" which are based on 7.5' USGS Topographic Quads that are broken up into six smaller blocks. Each block is named for the topographic quad followed by the position of the block within the quad. Of these, 937 have been identified as "Priority Blocks" from which data is preferred, although data from all blocks is valuable and will be accepted. As a volunteer observer, you will work with regional coordinators over the course of the project to travel roads, trails, and private lands (with owner permission) within each block to record every bird that you see and hear. Surveying blocks is a balance between the time we have to spend in a block and the kind and diversity of habitats it contains.

As a participant and contributor to Oregon's Breeding Bird Atlas Project in the late 1990s, I can promise you that it will take you to some places you had not considered birding before, and will inevitably result in some surprises and new discoveries. Unlike Oregon's effort, North Carolina's atlas project is not limited to breeding birds, so it creates another reason to contribute year-round for the next five years. So please… consider working under another birding maxim; **atlas early – atlas often**!

Opportunities for Young Birders

Carolina Bird Club offers scholarships for birders 19 and under living in the Carolinas, who are members of the Carolina Young Birders Club. Scholarships provide assistance in attending bird-related events, such as camps, workshop, training programs or CBC seasonal meetings.

For more information, visit www.carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Fall Birding Weekend – Havelock, NC

Home of Marine Corps Air Station – Cherry Point

Thursday, Friday & Saturday, September 23-25, 2021

Dickcissel, Steve Creek, Flickr Creative Commons

HAVELOCK: The CBC Board announces the first Birding Weekend since the Covid-19 pandemic became a major threat in March 2020. We will convene for a Covid Conscious Social, Banquet and presentation by our keynote speaker, Simon Thompson, at the Days Inn and Suites in Havelock, NC. Havelock is 25 minutes from Morehead City on the coast and 25 minutes from New Bern along the Neuse River. Both towns are tourist centers, waterfront communities with an extensive history. New Bern was once the Capital of North Carolina and Morehead City always a major shipping center. Morehead grew along with its 300+ year old neighbor, Beaufort, a whaling center of ole, and owes its prominence as the terminus of the Atlantic and NC Railroads. This web link will enlighten you to many names you will see or hear during your birding trips. https://www.morehead.com/history-of-morehead-city.html New Bern says, "We have been preparing for your visit for over 300 years." This link of fun facts may give you a sense of the days you could spend exploring its sights. https://visitnewbern.com/fun-facts The history in this area is enthralling and will tear at your plans to see many new life birds and familiar favorites. From famous Ft. Macon on the coast to the Tryon Palace and Firemen's Museum you really should plan a few days prior to our gathering in Havelock.

WHERE WE WILL BIRD: We plan to provide opportunities to see by boat either the Rachael Carson Reserve or the bird-rich Shackleford Banks. A trip to Cape Lookout will be the third option in the all-day category requiring water craft. ½ day water excursions in the inland islands behind Bear Island and a trip to Bear Island are on the itinerary. These 5 tours require a cost per attendee for the boat. Many land trips will go into habitats of the Croatan Forest, home of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, to North River Preserve, over 8000 acres of farmland being returned to wetland habitats, and eBird Hotspots in New Bern and nearby salt-water marsh sites. A walk on Bogue Inlet with a monitor from Emerald Isle of the

Tryon Palace architecture is memorably appreciated on a tour.

Ft. Macon's commanding position truly meets the definition of strategic.

site's breeding birds will be an interesting chance to also scan the beach for migrants. A trip is on the schedule to Cedar Island NWR, 14,000 acres with marsh and both maritime and upland forests. The restricted site of Cool Springs Preserve for wet and upland forest birds is on the schedule, to be followed by a visit to the Voice of America property for lingering breeding birds of fields such as Henslow's, Grasshopper and Field Sparrows. Loggerhead Shrikes are often seen. Havelock is surrounded by the

Croatan National Forest where many trips will focus for Hooded, Swainson's, Worm-Eating Warblers and the sought-after Red-cockaded Woodpecker and Bachman's Sparrow.

THE SOCIAL: A Social Hour is planned each evening. On Saturday evening we will hold our only full evening of activity to celebrate the long-awaited resumption of the CBC Birding Weekends. A banquet will follow the social and we will then hear from our Keynote Speaker, Simon Thompson. He plans a jovial look at birding. The evening ends with our count of the birds located the past two days. This will also help us plan optional trips Sunday morning as many of us prepare to travel homeward. Don't forget the local history by planning some time in the area.

VENUE: Days Inn & Suites, 400 US 70 W, Havelock, NC 28532. Cost for the hotel has been arranged at $95 + taxes. Cots are not available, but children in the room, a maximum of 2, are free.

REGISTRATION: Details will be in the August Newsletter. Early registration will be important to secure your room.

North Carolina Coastal Federation's North River Wetlands Preserve (photo – nccoast.org/)

CBC Outer Banks Trip, December 4 - 5, 2021

Widely considered at the top of the list for early winter birding sites in North Carolina, the Outer Banks of Dare County are home to thousands of wintering swans, ducks, geese, shorebirds, waders, gulls, and more. Join members of the Carolina Bird Club as we explore the Bodie Island lighthouse area, Oregon Inlet, Pea Island NWR, the ocean beaches of Hatteras and Bodie Islands and other "hotspots".

The trip will focus on waterfowl and shorebird identification as well as building a broad trip list including everything from grebes to sparrows. The trip starts Saturday, December 4, at 7:30 a.m. in the Bodie Island Lighthouse parking lot. Saturday will be devoted to birding along the immediate coast. Sunday will include a stop at Alligator River NWR and potentially Mattamuskeet NWR.

Detailed information including directions, lodging choices, dining opportunities and more will be provided to registrants. Birds that you can expect to see include loons, numbers of Tundra Swans and Snow Geese, most of the dabbling ducks that winter in eastern North Carolina, chances to see sea ducks including all three American scoters, gulls, wintering passerines, and winter shorebirds including American Avocet and possibly Purple Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher and Piping Plover. Alligator River NWR may provide an opportunity to see Black Bear, raptors, shorebirds (if water levels are right) and numbers of Tundra Swan and waterfowl.

Logistics: The fee for this field trip is $45 and advance registration is required. Participation is limited to 12. Participants are responsible for lodging and meals. A number of motels, hotels, and other lodging are available in Nags Head north through Kitty Hawk. We will attempt to carpool in order to reduce the number of vehicles caravanning to the birding sites. Spotting scopes are useful if you have one. Dress for the weather and in layers. If we are enjoying a warm early winter, mosquito repellant may be useful. Lunch on Saturday will likely either be at a seafood restaurant or Subway. If you prefer, bring a bag lunch. A variety of restaurants are open for Saturday dinner.

To register for this field trip contact Steve Shultz sshultz at nc.rr.com or (919) 629-7226. Upon confirmation of your slot on the trip you will be sent a registration form/waiver that can be submitted with your trip fee. Note that there is a modest fee to walk out on Jennette's Pier.

Welcome New CBC Members!

NEW LIFE MEMBERS - Peggy Schachte & Hal Currey, Sullivans Island, SC

Laura Zulueta
Apex, NC

Wendy Hardy
Garner, NC

Deborah Lawrence
Durham, NC

Martha & Mitchell Fisher
Durham, NC

Sandi Denkers
Spartanburg, SC

Beth & Billy Harwell
Mooresville, NC

Mary Storms
Lumberton, NC

Chelsea, Shannon & Tommy Harmon
Ladson, SC

Dee Omer
Raleigh, NC

Karen Rudio
Pawley's Island, SC

Shannon & Brandon Robinson
Durham, NC

Suzanne Meredith
Endicott, NY

CBC Research, educational and conservation grants are available through the Carolina Bird Club. For additional information visit www.carolinabirdclub.org.

How I got into birding

By Steve Dowlan

Everyone who searches for birds with binoculars, scopes, and cameras has a story about how they discovered "birdwatching" and eventually identified themselves as a "birder." These stories range from little kids who had parents and grandparents who introduced them to the national pastime at their feeders to those who came to birding as a retirement activity. My own story begins at age 13 with a father who liked to search for bargains in pawn shops and second hand stores, a local high school French teacher who fed birds on his back porch, a retired professor of world history who was the subject of a newspaper article about hand-feeding birds, and a local trash hauler who operated a bird banding station close to my home.

My father provided me with my first binoculars to be used for looking at birds close-up. My neighbor Bill Kehew invited me onto his porch to better see the birds I was watching from the woods behind his house. Professor Emeritus Charles W. Robbe taught me to hand-feed Black-capped Chickadees. Walter Fye handed a Yellow-breasted Chat to me, fresh out of the net… how could anyone not get hooked after that experience?

My dad had a special passion for guns and binoculars. I did not inherit or adopt his passion for either of these items. I wholesale rejected any interest in guns, and I have never had much interest in the technical aspects of birding optics. Although I inherited several pairs of binoculars from him over the years, I have always maintained a very utilitarian attitude toward binoculars, scopes and cameras… If it gets the job done, I'm happy!

Behind our home in northwest Pennsylvania, just three hours south of Roger Tory Peterson's home town, was a large tract of State Game Land managed mostly for hunting. This area was riddled with trails and pathways which for most of the year were empty of hunters or any kind of visitors. It became my personal birding area. I remember the Ovenbird that ran across my shoes while I leaned against a tree. I remember seeing Blue-winged Warblers, Golden-winged Warblers, and both hybrids practically in my back yard. I remember where I saw and heard my first Pileated Woodpecker, much less common there in the early 1970s than now. I remember when Bill Kehew took me to see my very first American Kestrel in a field about two miles away. Bill also played in a bluegrass band, and I have to give credit to him for my own interest in that as well.

No other kids from my school or neighborhood shared any interest in birds… Because I was always an introvert, happy to follow my pursuits alone, this did not bother me at all. Birds were like mysteries to be solved. Every walk in the back woods was like a revelation to me. In addition to birds, I was reveling in discoveries about trees, wildflowers, mushrooms, salamanders, snakes… I could not get enough, and still can't, 45 years later.

In hindsight, I feel fortunate to have acquired a keen interest in birds at such an early age. I often wish I had also acquired a passion for recordkeeping at that age, but back then I was much more focused on the wonder and less on the documentation. I have to give credit to the very active county-listing scene in Oregon, my home for 28 years for instilling in me the importance of recordkeeping. I feel fortunate to have landed in North Carolina and region with a very active birding community. The enthusiasm of other birders just feeds the passion!

A CBC BONUS TRIP THROUGH EPIC TOURS

Paul and Amanda Laurent, owners and trip leaders of Epic Nature Tours are excited to announce a 15 day Costa Rica Trip for the CBC from January 18 - February 1, 2022. This Epic Costa Rican birding tour will take guests off the beaten path to explore two of the most incredible and remote parts of Costa Rica - the marshes of Cano Negro and the primary rainforest of the Osa Peninsula.

We begin by traveling north through the highlands to Cano Negro, which is considered to be one of the most important wetlands on earth and home to over 350 species of birds, including Jabirus and Agami Herons! Next we journey south to the Tarcoles River and Carara National Park. Situated on the border of tropical wet and dry rainforests, Carara is home to an incredible variety of birds from both habitats. We will also take a boat tour on the Tarcoles River to see giant crocodiles and to look for rare birds found only deep in the mangroves.

From here we continue south to the Osa Peninsula, which is called, *The most biologically intense place on Earth*. Osa has the highest biodiversity on the planet! First we explore the eastern side of Osa, then we travel by boat to Drake Bay on the Pacific side. This tour will let you experience some of the most amazing places in Costa Rica, and you will have the potential to see 500+ different species of birds.

Group Size: 8 Participants
Price per person (double occupancy): $3950.00
Single Supplement: $680.00
Single supplement applies to anyone staying by themselves and not sharing a room.

CONTACT EPIC TOURS AT:
INFO@EPICNATURETOURS.COM

There are only 4 spots left on the upcoming CBC Bonus Trip to Costa Rica. To reserve your spot on this trip, contact Paul & Amanda Laurent at info@EpicNatureTours.com or by phone at (931) 452-9254. *Completed COVID 19 Vaccination required for all participants.*

Carolina Bird Club
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Carolina Bird Club
1809 Lakepark Drive
Raleigh, NC 27612

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and additional mailing offices

Upcoming CBC Meetings

Fall 2021- Fall Birding Weekend – Havelock, NC - September 23-25
Winter 2022 - Outer Banks, NC - January 13 - 16, 2022
Spring 2022 - Black Mountain, NC - May 5 - 8, 2022

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stevepath1@aol.com

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Volume 67 **Issue 4** **August 2021**

Strategies for a Successful Carolina Bird Atlas Effort

By Steve Dowlan

As a veteran of a bird atlas project from another state, I confess that I get a bit obsessed with the effort. I was thrilled when the North Carolina Bird Atlas Project was launched this year, and it immediately changed the way I bird wherever I go within the state. I'm thinking about locating Priority Blocks when I travel, and I'm searching for birds with bugs and bits of grass and twigs in their bills rather than just hoping to hear or see a new county or state species. Completing an Atlas Project Priority Block that is seldom birded requires some planning and forethought that may not be necessary in blocks that include eBird hotspots or in those that already receive a lot of attention. I have some suggestions for a birding strategy in these less birded areas.

One of my atlas priority blocks is within sight of my house, but has seldom been birded by locals or visiting birders. It includes mostly rural neighborhoods along lightly-traveled roads and large blocks of private property. Although I plan to ask for access to some of these areas, I'm assuming that most if not all of my birding will have to happen from public roads and a few kinds of places where I will not likely be chased away. Fortunately, most priority blocks include several of these public and semi-public facilities.

Schools and Public Parks

The obvious go-to areas for bird atlas efforts are in public ownership of one kind or another. My close-by priority block includes a historic high school that now houses a day care center, Chinese medicine school, a playground, a library, a senior center, and a track used by locals for walking and running. This facility is also along a stream, and includes riparian vegetation communities. It is the only substantial tract of land that offers free public access in the entire block. Birds are well-accustomed to the presence of people here, and this is a great advantage when looking for behavior that confirms breeding activity. Always be mindful of how your presence may arouse concern, especially around operating schools and day care centers.

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Churches and Cemeteries

Churches and cemeteries are great places to pursue atlas birding where access is limited. During the few times I've encountered someone associated with these places, no one has looked at me with suspicion or malice. Church and cemetery staffs are more likely to be curious about what you are doing, and may even offer useful advice and guidance for access elsewhere. The key to harmony in these situations is to stay in plain sight, avoid trespass on to adjacent private property, and be friendly to anyone who approaches to ask what you are up to. Be aware though that some family cemeteries are on private land not associated with churches. Usually, this is obvious.

Birding by bicycle

Local residents are rightfully suspicious of anyone parking in odd places or blocking traffic and peering at feeders next to homes. Sometimes wide spots and potential parking areas are nowhere near the best or most interesting habitat, which means you may have to walk along roadsides from the few available parking spots. I have had great success birding these areas by bicycle, especially where traffic is light. While rolling along slowly, I can hear bird songs and call notes, especially begging calls, and I can stop almost anywhere I want to. I'm also more likely to see birds carrying nesting material or food. Even a fairly narrow road is adequate for leaning a bicycle against a bank to follow up on potential breeding confirmation. Bikes also are useful on rails-to-trails and any other public pathways that are open to them.

Birding by Kayak and Canoe

Riparian habitat associated with lakeshores, rivers, and large streams can be difficult to access from land. A waterway may be open to public access, but the shore is often off-limits and clearly posted. Kayaks and canoes provide quiet, efficient, and slow transportation, allowing detection of birds by sound well away from the shore in upland areas. Use of watercraft may open up many miles of tidal areas, reservoir shorelines, river banks, and forested swamps that are otherwise difficult to access. It may take a bit of practice to keep the boat from rolling as you twist and turn to follow a bird (I keep my binoculars and camera in a dry bag while actually paddling), and one must be mindful of tides in order to avoid grounding well away from the launch point. Some birds may be less wary of a birder approaching by boat rather than on foot.

Getting to "Confirmed"

Confirming the breeding status of a species involves both luck and persistence. It is luck when you see an Eastern Towhee that is perched on a guardrail post with a beak full of nesting material as you drive by (*CN – Carrying Nesting Material)*. With a little persistence and patience in the follow-up, the *CN* code can be upgraded to *NB – Nest Building*. It is also persistence when you spend extra time watching a Northern Cardinal for as long as it takes to see it gather and carry food for its young (*CF – Carrying Food*) through dense brush to see the bird feed its young (*FY – Feeding Young)* . Often confirmation is achieved by just a few-second glance as a bird flies away with nest material or food.
Observations of occupied nests may involve several-to-many minutes of following a bird that is acting "nesty", behavior which becomes obvious the more you look for it. It helps tremendously to learn key characteristics of recently fledged young and their behavior when begging for food. Although begging calls of young birds vary tremendously, all begging birds have a repertoire of sounds that is different from the adults of the same species. Following these oddball sounds often leads to confirmation by *FL – Recently Fledged & Precocial Young, FY – Feeding Young*, or *NY – Nest with Young*.

Balance Effort with Results

Completing one of the 937 priority block requires consideration of what you have or someone else has already achieved each time you head to the field. From the project perspective, there isn't much benefit to pursuing confirmation for a species in a Priority Block in which the species has already has been confirmed. Instead, think about the species – especially the common species – that still need to be

confirmed and look for them where you have seen them before. If you saw a Baltimore Oriole pair several times in the same place, go there and follow the birds until you see them carrying food or visiting a nest. Once you have acquired confirmation, move on to another species. Be methodical in your approach.

To Bird Where No One has Birded Before

In my opinion, the real benefit to atlas birding is that it takes you to new places that have been seldom or never birded by anyone else. Since March of the current year, I have rarely visited the local eBird hotspots. Instead, I have worked atlas Priority Blocks, and this has taken me to places I would not have considered before. I have increased my knowledge of local roads, found species in new locations, and found a new reason to exercise my legs and arms with the bicycle and boat.

CBC Outer Banks Trip, December 4 - 5, 2021

This event currently has a waiting list for sign-up! Widely considered at the top of the list for early winter birding sites in North Carolina, the Outer Banks of Dare County are home to thousands of wintering swans, ducks, geese, shorebirds, waders, gulls, and more. Join members of the Carolina Bird Club as we explore the Bodie Island lighthouse area, Oregon Inlet, Pea Island NWR, the ocean beaches of Hatteras and Bodie Islands and other "hotspots".

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Carolina Bird Club Research Grants Updates – 2021

By Craig Watson

The past two years have been busy for the Carolina Bird Club (CBC) Grants Committee. Three grants delayed by the pandemic were fully implemented in 2021, and three new grants were funded in 2021. Also, discussions for an exciting large-scale monitoring project in the southern Appalachians are ongoing, which may result in a proposal later this year or in 2022.

Projects funded in 2021

A research project titled "*Potential Interactions between Climate Change and Density-Dependent Factors Driving Population Dynamics of the Federally Endangered Red-Cockaded Woodpecker*" was funded in the amount of $3000 and will be conducted by a PhD student at North Carolina State University with the project site being the North Carolina Sandhills region. The partnership with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Sandhills Ecological Institute, and Department of Defense will study how density-dependent and climate change factors influence partial brood loss of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, and will inform and guide managers to adapt conservation for the woodpecker and other species affected by climate change factors.

Another project, *"Bird Studies at a private property site in the Uwharries region – Research, Monitoring, Education Proposal"*, will be conducted by investigators from the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences with the CBC providing $3750. This study will focus on surveying for early-successional/shrub-scrub species, capture and release of individual birds, estimating density of species, and conducting a rapid assessment of vegetation characteristics for these shrub-scrub species. This project will inform managers about demographics of these species and relate this information to patch size for managing decreasing numbers of species that utilize these habitats.

A third study to be funded in the amount of $1245 will study mitochondrial DNA of wintering American Kestrels in South Carolina. The University of Wyoming and Coastal Carolina University will conduct this study. The results of this information will be used by managers and conservationists for the protection of a potentially distinct subspecies.

Motus Detections for a Painted Bunting
Cape Romain NWR 4/25/21 @ 10:30pm
Dewees Island 4/25/21 @ 4:45am and 10:00pm
Kawah Island 10/24/20 @ 7:45pm
Harbor Island 10/24/20 @ 8:30pm
St. Simons Island, GA 4/23/21 @ 12:00am
Brunswick, GA 4/23/21 @ 11:30pm
Jacksonville, FL 4/23/21 @ 10:00pm
Florida Keys NWR 11/20/20-4/1/21
Fall Migration
Spring Migration
Winter
THE BAHAMAS

Status of Previously Funded Projects

Migratory Connectivity of Eastern Painted Buntings, Aaron Given, Town of Kiawah Island - 32 Painted Bunting (13 adults, 19 juveniles; 8 female, 5 males, 19 unknown sex) were fitted with nanotags on Kiawah Island from 8/26-9/24, with 2 Additional birds (1 adult male, 1 adult female) tagged on James Island. All individuals except for two were detected at least one time by the Motus network. 18 birds were detected at 15 Motus stations outside of Kiawah including locations in South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, with one being detected on Big Pine Key in the Florida Keys! Fall migration departure dates for 17 Painted Buntings were determined ranging from 10/01/2020 to 11/3/2020.

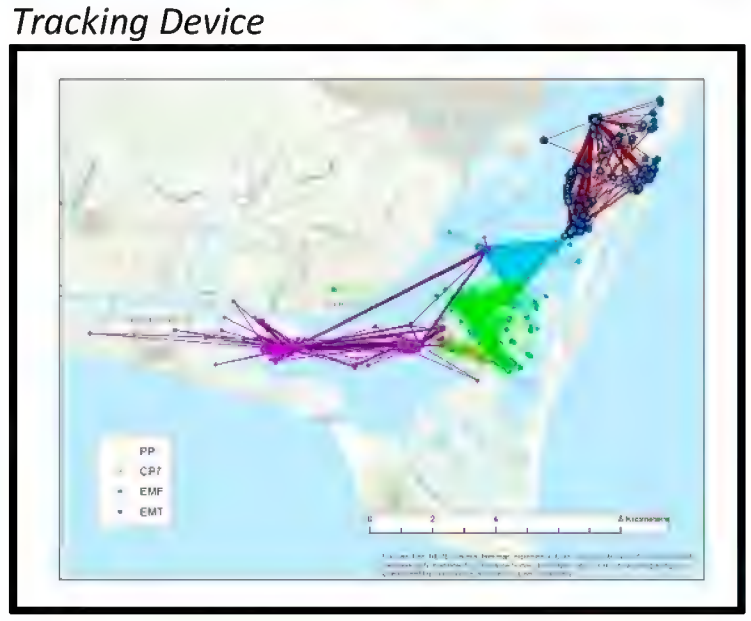
Importance of Seabrook and Kiawah Islands for Red Knot: Estimating population size, stopover duration, and habitat use - $1,680 for travel expenses (delayed due to pandemic). This is a part of a graduate student project at The University of South Carolina in partnership with South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR). Field work ended this year with several groups of over 5,000 Red Knot using key points on the islands as stopover sites. Over 160 distinct flagged individuals were resighted, some of which were banded in Canada and South America. Additionally, 148 proportional counts of flagged vs. unflagged individuals were recorded which will be used to estimate population size, stopover duration, and general arrival/departure schedules. A final report will be submitted.

Whimbrel outfitted with GPS transmitter on Deveaux Bank

American Oystercatcher outfitted with GPS Tracking Device

Investigating and Protecting Critical Nocturnal Roosts: Whimbrel at Deveaux Bank, South Carolina - $7500 for the purchase of 5 GPS tags @ $1500/ea (delayed due to pandemic). This project was to be a cooperative project between the SCDNR and The University of South Carolina with a graduate student coordinating the work and the university receiving the funds. This project is complete and a final report has been submitted.

Five GPS transmitters funded by the CBC were deployed on Whimbrels on Deveaux Bank, South Carolina (2020 and 2021). Results showed where staging Whimbrels use local marshes during spring and fall migrations. Use of habitat, habitat types utilized, nocturnal roost use, and daily movements are all being measured. The CBC's contribution to this study is part of a much longer and more comprehensive study on Deveuax Bank.



Movements of four American Oystercatchers demonstrating use and importance of local marshes during breeding season

Members may know of the recent discovery of Deveaux Bank as a major staging and roosting area for Whimbrels in their northbound migration where up to 20,000 Whimbrels stage/roost, half of the Atlantic Coast population of Whimbrels. Here is a link to the paper that has been published on this remarkable phenomenon International Wader Study Group - Nocturnal roost on South Carolina coast supports nearly half of Atlantic coast population of Hudsonian Whimbrel *Numenius hudsonicus* during northward migration - https://www.waderstudygroup.org/article/15036/.

Additionally, here is a short film documentary on this discovery - Deveaux Bank South Carolina Whimbrel Announcement - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSr6V3VDgFo. Pictured at right is a Whimbrel outfitted with one of the units funded by the CBC and the principal investigator with

Maina Handmaker (Principal Investigator) with GPS tracking equipment on Deveaux Bank

the tracking equipment.

American Oystercatcher tracking: Modeling the influence of foraging distance on nest and brood survival and development of a tool to forecast future nesting distributions in response to climate variation, North Carolina - $8,250 for purchase of GPS trackers, harness equipment, and travel costs. This project supports a Ph.D. project out of the University of Oklahoma and is in partnership with Audubon North Carolina. This project is complete (delayed one year by pandemic) and a project report is forthcoming. The project put out 21 tags and has already collected over 21,000 data points. One important discovery is how important local marshes are to nesting Oystercatchers and that they travel no more than 3km from their nesting territories during incubation and chick rearing. Images below are courtesy of Kate Goodenough and represent movements of American Oystercatchers in the project area, and a photo of the GPS device the CBC funded for attaching to the oystercatchers. A final report will be submitted.

Inquires, but no proposal submitted

Building Eastern Bluebird boxes for Bioswale at Moultrie Middle School, inquiry only, no proposal submitted.

Construction of Wood Duck boxes on waterways in North Carolina to be done by a local community, inquiry, no proposal submitted.

Funding denied

An excellent research project, "*Use of Nocturnal Heterothermy in North American Songbirds During Migration*", from the University of Waterloo, $3000, was not funded as it did not address any conservation issues in the Carolinas. Work was to be conducted at banding stations in Canada, and while the work would benefit conservation regionally, the species being banded were not common migrants through the Carolinas and would contribute minimally to conservation of bird populations in the Carolinas.

Prospect for future funding

There have been some significant conversations occurring between the Grants Committee and Wild Bird Research Group, Inc. in Asheville, North Carolina. This organization, along with the North Carolina State Parks, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service are putting together a comprehensive proposal to fund establishing a MOTUS station in the Southern Appalachians on Mt. Mitchell. MOTUS is an international collaborate network of monitoring systems to track the movement of birds, bats, and large insects, and for this projects, birds will be tracked. The idea is to establish a network of stations that detects birds outfitted with various tracking devices in a fully implemented network where all birds passing through such a network would be detected. This MOTUS station on Mt. Mitchell would serve to fill a gap in the network, enabling vast amounts of data to be retrieved for a multitude of implications for research and management for bird habitat use, bird migration, and bird population ecology. We expect this grant to be submitted later this year or in 2020 with an approximate request of $10,000 (Motus Wildlife Tracking System).

CBC Research, educational and conservation grants are available through the Carolina Bird Club. For additional information visit www.carolinabirdclub.org.

Birding Heroes Award Presented to Dr. Jay Chandler and the Town of Hemingway

By Craig Watson

The Carolina Bird Club recently recognized Dr. Jay Chandler and the Town of Hemingway with the Club's Birding Heroes Award for their work to construct an observation platform and two foot bridges at the Hemingway Sewage Treatment Ponds for birders to gain access for better viewing the area. Both Jay and The Town have worked with birders throughout the Carolinas to accommodate birders travelling to find rare and unusual birds at the ponds.

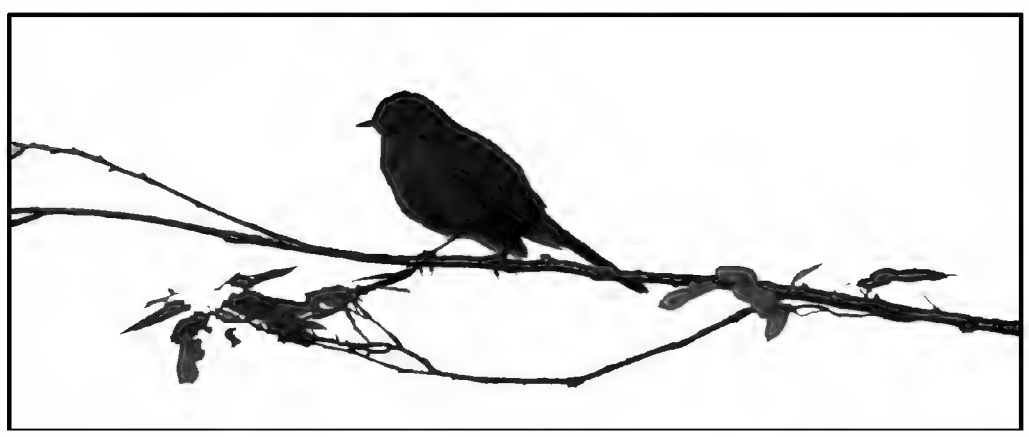
Jay has gone out of his way to alert birders to the presence of rare birds observed here, has met them there, and provided birders with access many times. However, it is the rare gesture of using Town funds and Jay's expertise to construct this observation platform, showing the birding community how a local birder and a municipality can work together to bring birding business to the community and to the Carolina Bird Club about how members work to promote birding in the Carolinas. Additionally, Jay has been a mentor to beginning birders, worked to promote birding in Williamsburg and Georgetown Counties, and worked tirelessly with the Town to provide this access to the ponds with the construction of the observation platform.

At a recent small ceremony to recognize Jay and the Town, the Town also presented Jay with a framed Letter of Appreciation for his efforts in building birding partnerships in the community. Some of the birds that have utilized the ponds and which Jay has worked with birders to view are Eared Grebe, Red-necked Phalarope, Wilson's Phalarope, White-winged Scoter, Ross's Goose, and most recently, the Great White Heron, a form or subspecies of the Great Blue Heron that typically is found in subtropical habitats of south Florida in the United States.
For this great work and community outreach, the Carolina Bird Club recognizes Dr. Jay Chandler and the Town of Hemingway each with a Certificate for their ongoing efforts in promoting birding in the communities in which they live and work.

Mayor of Hemingway John Michael Collins and Dr. Jay Chandler

Certificate and Letter of Appreciation for Dr. Jay Chandler

Photo of attendees at ceremony: Ken Laster(Town of Hemingway Public Works), Belinda Todd (Jay's sister), Ben Chandler (Jay's brother), Lana Boyer (Jay's sister), John Michael Collins (Mayor of Hemingway), Dr. Jay Chandler, Keith Baxley (Town of Hemingway Council member), and Craig Watson. Not pictured but attended ceremony - Samantha Lewis (Town of Hemingway Council member).



Welcome New CBC Members!

New Life Member – Patricia Bailey - Pittsboro, NC

Kristopher Smith
Angier, NC

Curtiss Merrick
Beaufort, NC

Clair Hixson
Raleigh, NC

Jamie Lynn Riedy
North Augusta, SC

Alessa Bertoluzzi
Edisto Island, SC

Rachel Cox
Clemson, SC

Nancy & John Kapp
Concord, NC

Richard Snow
Linda Robinson
Hillsborough, NC

David Graham
Durham, NC

Joyce Conner
Myrtle Beach, SC

Audrey Scanlon
Raleigh, NC

Mary Doughty
Hickory, NC

Laura& Paul Bobotas
Wilmington, NC

John Bruhnke
Spartanburg, SC

Ruth Thomas
Beaufort, SC

Vikki Trupin
Hendersonville, NC

Becky Newton Bowler
Beaufort, NC

Nelda McLawhorn
Washington, NC

Agnes Brodbeck
Leland, NC

Zoe Butler
N. Charleston, SC

Catherine Horton
Charlotte, NC

Debbie Baczewski
Summerville, SC

Michael Li
Chapel Hill, NC

Shelby & Gary Blackwell
Flat Rock, NC

Caroline, Nicholas &
Josephine Hudson
Wilmington, NC

<u>Deceased Member</u> - Jean M. White, Raleigh, NC

Opportunities for Young Birders

Carolina Bird Club offers scholarships for birders 19 and under living in the Carolinas, who are members of the Carolina Young Birders Club. Scholarships provide assistance in attending bird-related events, such as camps, workshop, training programs or CBC seasonal meetings.

For more information, visit www.carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Fall Birding Weekend – Havelock, NC
Home of Marine Corps Air Station – Cherry Point
Friday into Sunday, September 24-26, 2021

Host Venue – Havelock Days Inn & Suites, 400 Hwy. 70 W., Havelock, NC 28532

CBC Board has been anxiously awaiting the opportunity to announce the first Birding Weekend since the Covid-19 pandemic became a major threat in March 2020. We will convene for a COVID-conscious Social, Banquet and presentation by our keynote speaker, Simon Thompson, at the Days Inn and Suites in Havelock, NC. Havelock is 25 minutes from Morehead City on the coast and 25 minutes from New Bern along the Neuse River. Both towns are tourist centers, waterfront communities with an extensive history. New Bern was once the Capital of North Carolina and Morehead City always a major shipping center. Morehead grew along with its 300+ year old neighbor, Beaufort, a whaling center of ole, and owes its prominence as the terminus of the Atlantic and NC Railroads. This web link will enlighten you to many names you will see or hear during your birding trips (https://www.morehead.com/history-of-morehead-city.html). New Bern says, "We have been preparing for your visit for over 300 years." This link of fun facts may give you a sense of the days you could spend exploring its sights (https://visitnewbern.com/fun-facts). The history in this area is enthralling and will tear at your plans to see many new life birds and familiar favorites. From famous Ft. Macon on the coast to the Tryon Palace and Firemen's Museum you really should plan a few days prior to our gathering in Havelock.

Dickcissel, Steve Creek, Flikr Creative Commons

VALUABLE INFO AS YOU PREPARE TO ATTEND THIS BIRDING WEEKEND
USE THESE DETAILS AS YOU PACK

BIRDING TRIPS

We plan to provide opportunities to see by boat the Rachael Carson Reserve and the bird-rich Shackleford Banks. A trip to Cape Lookout will be the third option in the all-day category requiring water craft. Half day water excursions in the inland islands behind Bear Island and a trip to Bear Island are on the itinerary. There is a fee for all of these trips.

Onshore and woodland trips will allow us to sample the various habitats required by the resident birds, and hopefully catch many migrants getting prepared for the next stage in their annual fall flights. At the new Gallants Channel Nature Trails on the shore of Harlowe Creek, to the spit of land overlooking the ocean and sound at Bogue Inlet, to Cedar Island NWR and even the quarry in New Bern we will seek shorebirds and waders. Many other trips will attempt to provide some water viewing – the White Oak River Sojourn, Patsy Pond and Emerald Isle Woods, Ft. Macon, the North River Wetlands and Simmons Street Marshes, and yet land birding will be all around. The extensive woodland of the Croatan National Forest holds several habitats harboring sought-after birds such as Red-cockaded Woodpecker and Swainson's Warbler, and sparkling jewels such as Hooded Warbler.

All trips start at the hotel. Weather will be warm and humid. Bring plenty of liquids with you and drink them while on the trips. Brown bag luncheons are not available from the hotel. If you are on an all-day trip you must provide your own luncheon.

A special message here for Trip #16 on NC Birding Atlas Basics. All of us are interested in birding and many of us are already a part of the amazing citizen scientist project we know as eBird, which will soon receive its one billionth list! NC is harnessing this field birder and feeder birder power that will promote avian conservation with a birder-wide community science survey – the NC Birding Atlas. Sit down in the hotel meeting room with a local Atlas Coordinator and Project Coordinator to learn how your efforts can make a difference as a citizen scientist Atlaser. Discover those easy methods to advance our knowledge of birds in North Carolina. Bring your cell phone and you can get started immediately. Every extra observer adds to the knowledge base. There is no limit to the number of participants to this special presentation.

Interested in birding and participating in a statewide citizen science program that promotes avian conservation?

OUR SOCIALS

A social is planned each evening, an hour to meet old and new friends over a beverage of your choice. Dinner will be on your own Thursday and Friday evening. Breakfast is not included in the hotel rate. Each room includes a mini-frig, microwave and coffee maker.

A Saturday evening social hour with a wine, beer or liquor cash bar will start our only full evening of activity to celebrate the long-awaited resumption of the CBC Birding Weekends. **Due to COVID restrictions for indoor events the Banquet is limited to the first 120 registrants. This restriction is to the banquet only as all other activities will not be within the confines of the Main Hall**. (As a sidebar we will return to OBX January 2022 and to Black Rock in western NC May 2022.) The banquet will immediately follow the social. We will then hear from our Keynote Speaker, Simon Thompson. He plans a look at birding during the pandemic. The evening ends with our count of the birds located the past two days. This will also help us plan optional trips Sunday morning as many of us prepare to travel homeward, but don't forget the local history.

These activities will occur in the common areas of our host hotel. Cost for the hotel has been arranged at $95 + taxes. Cots are not available, but children in the room (a maximum of 2) are free. **Use 252-444-1111 and identify your reservation with the "Carolina Bird Club – Fall 2021".** Check-in time is 3 p.m. and check-out 11 A.M.

There are a number of amazing trips to offshore locations for this Birding Weekend. Weather and wind will be a deciding factor as to holding these trips. Also, if attendance is low on some trips, for example,

CBC Fall 2021 Havelock, NC Registration Form

Registration Begins Saturday, August 7th @ 2pm.

Register online for Best Availability of Field Trips at www.carolinabirdclub.org.

Name _____

Address_____

City_____ **State**_____ **Zip Code** _____

Meeting Registration (Member) ____x $35 = $____

Meeting Registration (Non-Member) ____x $40 = $____

Buffet Dinner ___ (A vegetarian pasta entrée is one of the available items on the buffet line) x $35 = $____

Total Enclosed = $_____

Meeting registration at the door costs $45.

Field Trip Sign-Up	A.M. 1st/2nd Choice	P.M. 1st/2nd Choice	All Day 1st/2nd Choice
Friday	/	/	/
Saturday	/	/	/

To pre-register for Field Trips, place the trip number(s) in the boxes to the right of the days.

Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club and send to:

CBC, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374

Club policy requires all field trip participants to comply with the field trip leader's assessment and requests concerning the physical ability of each participant to make or complete the trip.

I will release and discharge (and will not make a claim against) the Carolina Bird Club for injury, death, or property damage arising from my participation at this meeting and/or Club field trips. This release of liability is entered into on behalf of all members of my family, including all minors accompanying me. I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of any such minors and that I am over 18 years of age.

Signature_____ Date_____ Signature_____ Date_____

Processing of mail-in registrations will not begin until online registration opens.

Pre-Registration ends Tuesday, August 31th, 2021 at Noon

Cancellations will be refunded if received by Noon on Friday, September 10th.

Cancel by contacting the Headquarters Secretary at hq@carolinabirdclub.org.

due to low Weekend attendance, any trip may be cancelled. We will advise you as soon as possible of a cancelled trip so you can sign on to another trip or take a contingency trip that is offered as an alternative. There are local birding sites of note that are not on any offered trip and I know we can pique your interest. Immediately after checking-in for your room at the Days Inn go to the CBC Welcome desk in the main Conference Hall Lobby and check your name on the sign-in sheets for your trips. Additional info that may affect your birding trip will be noted.

COVID

We will follow the current recommendations in effect late September. A vaccination is highly encouraged. Not vaccinated? Join the fight as we did with malaria, polio and a slew of diseases eradicated in the U.S. Protect you and your fellow birders and family by getting vaccinated before the Weekend. Again, as of this announcement the banquet is restricted to the first 120 members registering for the event.

REGISTRATION

Registration opens at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, August 7. Registration ends August 31st at noon. Registration may be able to be extended if we have sufficient early registrants but is not guaranteed. Please also sign up for the Saturday evening dinner after you complete your trip selections. Advance registration for this dinner is required, the cost of which is due at Registration for the Weekend. Fees for boat trips will be paid at the dock to the operator or leader by cash or check.

September 10, Noon, is the last day for refunds if you have to cancel attendance or dinner. Cancel by sending an email to the Headquarters Secretary at hq@carolinabirdclub.org. Your trip(s) registration will also then be cancelled and given to anyone on the wait list.

CBC Registration Desk: Conference Hall Lobby - Thursday 4:00p.m. – 9:00p.m.. Friday and Saturday 6:00am – 8:00am and 12:30p.m. – 1:30p.m.

Field Trip confirmation sheets will be in the registration desk area. After picking up your registration packet please put a check mark by your name on each of your trip sheets so the trip leaders will know you have checked in for your trip. There will be people available to answer any questions regarding trips. If you are not able to attend a trip, please cross out your name so someone from the wait list can fill your place.

Departure Times -The field trip departure times are for **leaving** the hotel. **Arrive the minimum10-15 minutes early**. Look for the sign with your trip number and let the leader know you are there. We encourage carpooling. Please consider contributing toward gas expenses if you carpool. Trip leader cell phone number will be provided. If you cannot go on a trip make every effort to advise one of the following: trip leader, meeting coordinator, or advise someone who is on the trip so the group doesn't wait for you. **Hotel Returns**-Morning trips should be back to the hotel by noon, afternoon and all-day trips by 5:00 p.m.

All Day Trips-Please bring a lunch, snacks, plenty of water, insect repellant, hat and raingear, foot wear for wet/muddy conditions. Most sites are remote with no nearby restaurants or restrooms.

CBC Fall Birding Weekend – Havelock, NC
Friday into Sunday, September 24-26, 2021

Thursday September 23, 2021 4:00-9:00p.m. Registration – Check the Trip List you have arrived	Location: Days Inn Conference Hall Lobby
6:00-7:30p.m. - Social with cash bar	Location: Days Inn Lounge Meeting Area
Dinner on your own	
Friday September 24, 2021	
Field Trips (1/2 day and full-day trips) 6:00-7:30p.m. - Social with cash bar	Location: Days Inn Conference Hall Lobby Location: Days Inn Lounge Meeting Area
Breakfast, lunch and dinner on your own	
Saturday September 25, 2021 Field Trips (half and full-day trips)	
5:30-6:30p.m. Social with Cash Bar 6:30-7:30p.m. Banquet Dinner (**bring your ticket from the registration packet**) 7:30-7:45p.m. Announcements 7:45-8:30p.m. Keynote Speaker: Simon Thompson 8:30-9:00p.m. Species Countdown and Closing Remarks	Location: Days Inn Conference Hall Lobby Location: Days Inn Lounge Meeting Area Location: Days Inn Conference Hall
Breakfast and lunch on your own	
Sunday September26, 2021	
7:00a.m. Rarities & Out-of-season Bird Walks	Location: Days Inn Conference Hall Lobby
Breakfast on your own	
AGENDA (FINAL AGENDA WILL BE IN YOUR REGISTRATION PACKET)	
Registration (walk-ins) for the Birding Weekend is available at the hotel. Saturday evening dinner registration will not be available for walk-ins but attendance at the social and presentations is welcome.	

Fall Birding Weekend September 23-26, 2021- Havelock, NC, Trip List

Friday, September 24

Morning Half Day

Trip 1 – 7:00 a.m.	*North River Wetlands Preserve*
Trip 2 – 7:00 a.m.	*White Oak River Sojourn*
Trip 3 – 7:15 a.m.	*Patsy Pond & Emerald Isle Woods*
Trip 4 – 7:15 a.m.	*Bogue Inlet*
Trip 5 – 7:30 a.m.	*Millis Road Savannah*
Trip 6 – 7:30 a.m.	*Swansboro Coast Birding by Boat*

Afternoon Half Day

Trip 8– 1:00 p.m.	*Quarry/Martin Marietta Park*
Trip 9 – 1:00 p.m.	*Bear Island Boat Trip*
Trip 10 – 1:00 p.m.	*North River Wetlands Preserve*
Trip 11 – 1:15 p.m.	*Gallants Channel and Trails*
Trip 12 – 1:15 p.m.	*Glenburnie Park & Simmons Street Marshes*
Trip 13 – 1:15 p.m.	*Fort Macon*
Trip 14 – 1:30 p.m.	*NC Birding Atlas Basics*

All Day

Trip 16 – 6:00 a.m.	*Shackleford Banks*
Trip 17 – 6:00 a.m.	*Cape Lookout*
Trip 18– 6:15 a.m.	*Cedar Island NWR*
Trip 19 – 6:30 a.m.	*Voice of America and Cool Springs Preserve*
Trip 20 – 7:30 a.m.	*Rachel Carson Reserve*

Saturday, September 25

Morning Half Day

Trip 22 – 7:00 a.m.	*Billfinger and Little Deep Creek Roads*
Trip 23 – 7:00 a.m.	*White Oak River Sojourn*
Trip 24 – 7:15 a.m.	*Millis Road Savannah*
Trip 25– 7:15 a.m.	*Patsy Pond &Emerald Woods*
Trip 26– 7:30 a.m.	*Swansboro Coast Birding by Boat*
Trip 27–7:30 a.m.	*Bogue Inlet*

Afternoon Half Day

Trip 29 – 1:00 p.m.	*Quarry/Martin Marietta Park*
Trip 30 – 1:00 p.m.	*North River Wetlands Preserve*
Trip 31 – 1:00 p.m.	*Bear Island Boat Trip*
Trip 32 – 1:15 p.m.	*Simmons Street Marshes*
Trip 33 – 1:15 p.m.	*Birding from Day 1 to 10,000 (Birding 101)*
Trip 34 – 1:15 p.m.	*Fort Macon*
Trip 35 – 1:15 p.m.	*Gallants Channel and Trails*

All Day

Trip 37 – 6:00 a.m.	*Shackleford Banks*
Trip 38 – 6:00 a.m.	*Cape Lookout*
Trip 39 – 6:15 a.m.	*Cedar Island NWR*
Trip 40 – 6:30 a.m.	*Voice of America and Cool Springs Preserve*
Trip 41– 7:30 a.m.	*Rachel Carson Reserve*

Sunday, September 26

Trip 43 – 7:30 a.m.	*Search for uncommon & rarities seen*

Fall Birding Weekend 2021- Havelock, NC, Trip Descriptions

ALL DAY TRIPS

Trip 16 and 37: Shackleford Banks via boat ($) – East End

6:00 a.m. Start at Hotel. **Bring** lunch, extra water, insect repellant, sunscreen or rain jacket and boots or water shoes. Conditions will be muddy in some marsh side areas. We will walk several miles throughout the day. Conditions will be humid and wind is always a factor. If weather cancels the trip alternate trips will be available on the mainland.

This early start takes us to Harkers Island for the ferry to this section of the Cape Lookout National Seashore. We will bird the woodland around the terminal or adjacent museum before our departure. The pond in the woods behind the museum often holds surprises. Before embarking at the dock at 9:15 a.m. use the restroom as there are no facilities while with the Captain and trip leader, nor on the island. When we beach the ferry expect a slight chance for water underfoot as we get ashore, but the water temperature will near 80.Birding will start around the point on the ocean side while water rises. Brushy areas will be searched for migrating landbirds. We will then return to the north shore as the tide will push shorebirds into the sand flats and bars that. Among the shorebirds we hope to see Piping and Wilson's Plover. Reddish Egret and Long-billed Curlew would be fine additions. Will this be the sixth year in a row a Bar-tailed Godwit showed the last week in September? Water shoes are not required yet some may appreciate the freedom they allow while moving around the wetter marsh edges. Time after disembarking back on the mainland may allow further exploration of the habitat at this birding hotspot.
Cost: $18 payable to the CBC Weekend Coordinator at start of the trip at the hotel, by cash or check, and to receive your boarding pass. Maximum number of attendees: 15
Travel time 55 Minutes to 1785 Island Rd., Harkers Island, NC.

Trip 17 and 38: Cape Lookout via boat and land buggy ($)

6:00 a.m. departure from hotel. Bring lunch, extra water, insect repellant, sunscreen or rain jacket. We will be walking on the sandy shore for considerable distances. Plan your footwear accordingly. Conditions will be humid and wind is always a factor. If weather cancels the trip alternate trips will be available on the mainland. Restrooms will be available.
We travel early to Harkers Island, bird briefly the woods and pond around the terminal and museum and then board the boat at 9:15 a.m. for the dock in front of the Cape Lookout lighthouse. We will search the brush for landbirds before meeting our land buggy for the 3-mile ride to Cape Lookout. Raptors will be seen overhead for those attentive to passing birds. Wilson's and Piping Plovers will be on our target list. Gulls will be scanned and hopefully the terns will include a Roseate that has been found here. Time may allow further exploration of the habitat at disembarkation back on Harkers Island, an eBird hotspot.
Cost: $18 for the boat ride and $13 for the land shuttle ("Mega" Truck) payable to the CBC Weekend Coordinator at start of the trip at the hotel, by cash or check, to receive your boarding pass. Maximum number of attendees: 15
Travel time 55 Minutes to 1785 Island Rd., Harkers Island, NC.

Trip 18 and 39: Cedar Island NWR

6:15 a.m. start at Hotel. Bring lunch, extra water, insect repellant, sunscreen or rain jacket and boots or water shoes. Conditions will be humid and wind is always a factor. A scope will be the tool to have throughout the trip. With over 14,000 acres Cedar Island NWR holds habitats of sandy beach shoreline, marsh and both maritime and upland forests. We will start with a brief stop across the ICW to look for Seaside Sparrow and maybe a Least Bittern will fly by. Any brushy area may hold a Sedge Wren, especially along Lola Road, and the shoreline adjacent the Ferry Terminal will allow shorebird viewing. Western Sandpiper is a possibility. The beach walk will be about a 2-mile round trip with firmer and softer sand footing. Down the beach we can scope from atop the dunes the ponds and water on the

inland side of this spit. We will also make a stop near the Ferry Road Bridge for Sparrows and Rails. There is a restroom at the Ferry Terminal and picnic tables will allow a leisurely lunch.
Travel time 1 hour till we begin birding on our way to 3619 Cedar Island Road, Cedar Island, NC.

Trip 19 and 40: VOA Site A and Cool Springs Preserve
6:30 a.m. start at the Hotel. Cool Spring is a private Reserve donated by Weyerhaeuser Lumber for environmental education. Several miles of trails are available with open fields, woodland edge and woodland birding, including a boardwalk through a wetland. Prothonotary Warblers are common as is Acadian Flycatcher. This unique area of about 1700 acres on the Neuse River includes a trail along a Longleaf Pine ridge that adds significant diversity to the trip's birdlife.
VOA is known as the area to search for Henslow's Sparrow, Field Sparrows, Common Yellowthroat, White-eyed Vireos, Loggerhead Shrike, Grasshopper Sparrow and other field and brush species.
Travel time 50 minutes to Cool Springs, 945 Cool Spring Rd., New Bern, NC. A restroom is available at Cool Springs. VOA site A is at 10000 Cherry Run Rd., Washington, NC. There are no facilities at the VOA.

Trip 20 and 41: Rachel Carson Reserve – East End
7:30 a.m. Start at Hotel. Bring lunch, extra water, insect repellant, sunscreen or rain jacket and boots or water shoes. There will not be extensive walking. Conditions will be humid and wind is always a factor. If weather cancels the trip alternate trips will be available on the mainland. We will meet our boat in Beaufort's waterfront, 8:15 a.m.. At the terminal use the restroom as there are no facilities while with the Captain and trip leader. Narrow Taylor Creek is a contrast of the ages, with the historic tourist zone on the north and wild Rachel Carson on the south. Immediately you will see birds of the marsh and sand bars. We are planning to bird at high tide along Bird Shoal. When we beach the boat for our 3-4 hour visit expect a slim chance for water underfoot getting ashore but the water temperature will near 80. This tour will be geared for birders, not to the scenic stops for tourists. We will look for Piping and Wilson's Plover and hope we find a Long-billed Curlew. We may be able to visit a landbirding locale after disembarking prior returning to the hotel.
Cost: $15 per person, payable at the dock by cash, check or credit card. Maximum number of attendees: 15
Travel time 40 minutes.

HALF DAY TRIPS:

Trip 1, 10 and 30: North River Wetlands Preserve ($)
Check the Trip list for starting time at the Hotel. Bring water, sunscreen or rain jacket. Walking will be on grassy roads. (Protect yourself from chiggers and ticks.)
North River Preserve is managed by the NC Coastal Federation. This is an area of over 6,000 acres being returned from farmland to upland and lowland forest, freshwater and tidal wetlands, open water and mudflats. This has been a reliable site for Dickcissel in recent years. The restoration provides habitat for shorebirds and nesting ducks. Kingbirds from the western U.S. are being found, and we must always look for Swallow-tailed Kites. Shorebird habitat will be scanned for residents and migrants. In the breeding season Dickcissels are found and we will look for lingerers
Cost: $5 per person, payable at the gate by cash or check only.
Travel time 40 minutes to 973 US70, Beaufort, NC. Some GPS may find/require North River Farms Rd., Otway, NC. Restroom near barn.

Trip 2 and 23: White Oak River Sojourn
Start at the Hotel at 7:00 a.m.. This trip concentrates on sites along the White Oak River. The NC Birding Trail's Cedar Point Tideland Trail is near the mouth of the river at the Sound while Haywood Landing is upstream. Tideland Trail's one mile loop allows views of the salt marsh and pine and hardwood forest on a well-maintained sand and boardwalk system. Summer Tanager is common as is Brown-headed Nuthatch and woodpecker species. Wading birds are common and occasionally Painted Bunting is

located. Haywood Landing birding along Croatan Forest roads allows for more forested species. Both sites will offer migrants in late September.
Travel time 30 minutes to 391 VFW Road, Cedar Point, NC. Then Haywood Landing Road, Maysville, NC.

Trip 3 and 25: Patsy Pond and Emerald Isle Woods
Start at the hotel at 7:15 a.m.. Patsy Pond is within a coastal savannah, a Longleaf Pine Flat Woods, offering opportunity for woodpeckers including red-cockaded and Red-headed. Pine Warblers and Brown-headed Nuthatches are common as you walk several trails. We will then travel to gorgeous Emerald Isle Woods, an upland woodland with water filled depressions that are home to Prothonotary Warblers. Great-crested Flycatchers call overhead and along the water edges look for Oyster Catchers, Skimmers, terns and other shorebirds.
Travel time 20 minutes to 3614 NC24, Newport, NC, then on to 9404 Coast Guard Rd, Emerald Isle, NC. Restroom at Emerald Isle Woods.

Trip 4 and 27: Bogue Inlet
Start at the Hotel at 7:15 a.m. Friday or 7:30 a.m. Saturday. Get out on the beach with one of the Beach Bird Stewards of Emerald Isle who help monitor the nesting birds of the inlet and point. Terns galore, Piping and Wilson's Plovers, gulls and more. Sand conditions range from firm to deep sand. This will be a 2 mile walk at yet another eBird hotspot.
Bring water, insect repellant, sunscreen or rain jacket. Plan your footwear accordingly. Conditions may be humid and wind is always a factor.Parking is limited and requires a 0.4 mile walk to the trailhead.
Travel time 40 minutes. Use Bogue Ct., Emerald Isle, NC the beginning of which is the beach access for the Inlet. No restrooms. Nearest would be Emerald Isle Woods.

Trip 5 and 24: Millis Road Savannah
Start at the Hotel at 7:30 a.m. Friday or 7:15 a.m. Saturday. Travel time 15 minutes to Millis Road, Newport, NC. We may also travel to Millis Swamp Road. Our goal is Bachman's Sparrow and Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Pine Warblers and Yellow-throated Warblers in the canopy and Ovenbirds, Worm-eating Warblers and Swainson's Warblers in the understory will be our goals.
Bring water, insect repellant, sunscreen or rain jacket. Walking along a dirt road.
Travel time 20 minutes. Use Millis Road, Newport, NC on your GPS. No restrooms, nor nearby.

Trip 6 and 26: Swansboro Coast Birding by Boat ($)
Start at the Hotel 7:30 a.m.. This will be a trip along the inland isles behind Bear Island, in particular White Oak River, for viewing birds that will include terns, oystercatchers, skimmers, waders and much more. The trip is geared to the birder. Expect to be in the boat 2 hours, planning for wind, sun, or other weather conditions. Bring water.
Cost: $30 payable to the leader at the dock by cash or check only. Per trip minimum number of 15 required. Maximum number of attendees = 25.
Travel time 35 minutes to 139 Front St., Swansboro, NC

Trip 8 and 29: Quarry/Martin Marietta Park
Start at the Hotel at 1:00 p.m.. Formerly the Quarry on eBird the name of this primary birding site at New Bern is now the Martin Marietta Park, an 888 acre property with several borrow pits with a 3.3 mile trail around their perimeter. The trail is bordered by upland woodland. The site also borders fresh water wetlands along Bachelor Creek with the Neuse River in the background. Every visit has potential for all categories of birdlife. Bald Eagle and Osprey are seen daily, Marsh Wrens call and peek out of their dense cover, and migrating warblers draw the local bird club for walks. The city is now heavily developing this land and some grasslands will be lost but the woodland surrounding the property will be impacted very little.
Bring water and comfortable shoes, a hat and consider the weather for your layer comfort. Cars are not permitted.

Travel time 30 minutes to 700 S. Glenburnie Rd, New Bern, NC. Restroom at the entrance parking lot on the right near the canoe launch.

Trip 9 and 31: Bear Island (by Boat - $)
Start at the Hotel 1:00 p.m.. Our goal is to take the ferry to Bear Island which fronts on the Atlantic Ocean and Bogue Inlet. We will always be on the lookout for Painted Bunting. Several other islands and creeks on the inland side allow and demand your attention for the birds all along their shoreline and those flying overhead. We will bird along the trip for waders, skimmers and Oystercatchers, terns, and gulls. On the island we will walk the ½ mile to the beach, birding small woodlots for passerines. Piping Plovers and Wilson's Plover will be target birds and birds of the marshlands will fully round out the walk.
Cost: $15 payable at the dock to the leader by cash or check only. Minimum 4 and maximum 15 members. There is a restroom on the island on the Ocean side.
Travel time 35 minutes to 1572 Hammock Beach Rd., Swansboro, NC **or** 139 front St. Check at the Registration Desk and Sign-up sheets for the trip address.

Trip 11 and 35: Gallants Channel and Trails
Start at the hotel 1:15 p.m..Gallants Channel is a new property owned by NC and operated by the Friends of the NC Maritime Museum. Along the waterfront sightings are common of heron, egrets, terns, gulls, pelicans, black skimmers, and oystercatchers. The trails have been designed to access several habitats. These woodlands are becoming scarce along the coast and are expected to be stop over sites for migrating birds. Painted Bunting have nested here.
Travel time 35 minutes to 245 W. Beaufort Rd. Extended, Beaufort, NC.
There are no restroom facilities.

Trip 12 and 32: Glenburnie Park &Simmons Street Marshes
Start at the Hotel 1:15 p.m.. We will start this tour at Glenburnie Park with a ¼ mile walk to an area with resident and migrant passerines. Then we visit the constructed marshes of Simmons Streetwere built to function as polishing ponds for the City of New Bern treatment system. The surrounding woodland is searched by the locals for migrating birds while the wetlands hold Marsh Wrens. Sedge Wrens are sometimes located as is the year-round resident Virginia Rail. Other shorebirds can be found in any of the flooded areas.
We start at Glenburnie Park, 340 Glenburnie Park, New Bern, NC. There is a restroom at Glenburnie Park up the hill from the parking lot. We park at the first lot on the left immediately after turning into the park. Travel time 30 minutes.
It is then 5 minutes to the intersection of Simmons Street and Oaks Road. A gravel parking is just past Ruth's Chapel, 2709 Oaks Rd, New Bern, NC.

Trip 13 and 34: Ft. Macon
Start at the Hotel 1:15 p.m.. Local birders visit this site daily and clubs travel frequently to this point of land facing the Atlantic Ocean, and Newport River with the channeled and deep Beaufort Inlet that funnels birds and Fort Macon Creek facing the Morehead City Channel. All of that water quickly explains the significance of the site for this Fort. This land prominence funnels migrating land birds around the fort and larger birds constantly fly over the tip to and from the water bodies. Pelagic birds are occasionally seen near Shackleford Banks on the horizon and reported over the channels. A feeder at the fort is a required stop and a flooded depression off the end of the parking lot holds land birds as they fatten for the next segment of their migration. The feeder has been the site for Painted Buntings. The top of the fort on the south side is the stop with the best chances for migrating swallows and hawks. One never knows what may be seen.
Wind is always expected. Sunscreen is advisable. There is a restroom on the left side of the Visitor's Center.
Travel time 40 minutes to 2303 E. Fort Macon Rd., Atlantic Beach, NC

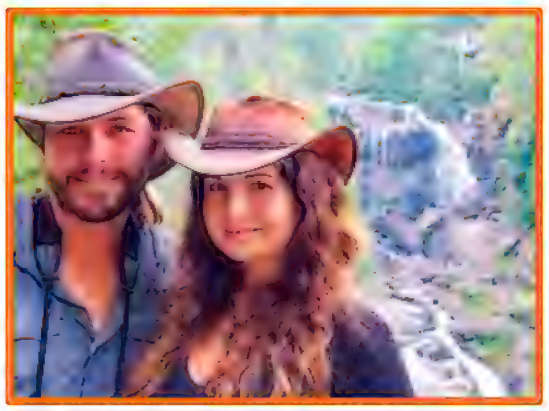
Trip 14: NC Birding Atlas Basics
Would you like your eBird reports to contribute valuable data and become a source for the scientific study of birds in North Carolina? Sit down in the hotel meeting room with a local Atlas Coordinator to learn how your efforts can make a difference as a citizen scientist Atlaser. Discover easy methods to advance what we know about the birds in North Carolina. Bring your cell phone and you can get started immediately. Every extra observer adds to the knowledge base.

Trip 22: Billfinger& Little Deep Creek Roads – Croatan Forest
Start at the hotel 1:15 p.m.. The Neusiok Trail is 26 miles long from the Neuse River to Newport, NC. Billfinger Road parallels sections of this trail through upland and lowland forest, and ancient savannahs harboring nesting Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. Our walk may yield Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-throated Warbler, Great Crested Flycatcher and Eastern Wood Pewee. We will concentrate our efforts along the eastern portions of the Neusiok, east of the Marine Base.
Travel time: 15 minutes. Use Cahooque Creek Rd, Havelock, NC on your GPS but travel past Cahooque to the first dirt road on the right (no sign for Billfinger Rd.).At the end, at 3.7 miles, turn left onto Little Deep Creek Rd. (again, no sign) No restrooms, nor nearby.

Trip 33: Birding from Day 1 to Day 10,000 (Birding 101)
Trip starts at 1:15 p.m. at the hotel. This is a trip for newer birders and those more experienced who want to gain tips for identifying birdlife. Use of binoculars and using bird shapes to hone in on a species will allow you to feel comfortable using the field guide of your choice. Don't be surprised to learn long time birders must practice these skills too.
Travel time dictated by the leader's choice of birding sites.

Trip 43: Trip for Uncommon/Unexpected Birds Found over the Weekend (on land only, not those on boat trips)
Start at the Hotel at 7 a.m.. A Trip for those who will not be leaving after breakfast and have time to bird in the area. If there is sufficient interest a second trip may be scheduled.

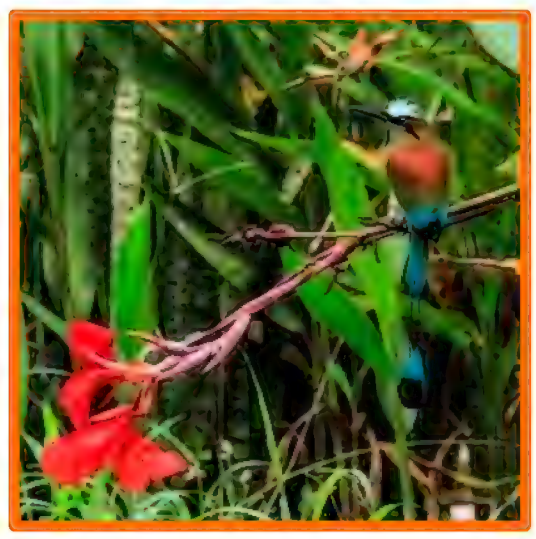
A CBC BONUS TRIP THROUGH EPIC TOURS



Paul and Amanda Laurent, owners and trip leaders of Epic Nature Tours are excited to announce a 15 day Costa Rica Trip for the CBC from January 18 - February 1, 2022. This Epic Costa Rican birding tour will take guests off the beaten path to explore two of the most incredible and remote parts of Costa Rica - the marshes of Cano Negro and the primary rainforest of the Osa Peninsula.

We begin by traveling north through the highlands to Cano Negro, which is considered to be one of the most important wetlands on earth and home to over 350 species of birds, including Jabirus and Agami Herons! Next we journey south to the Tarcoles River and Carara National Park. Situated on the border of tropical wet and dry rainforests, Carara is home to an incredible variety of birds from both habitats. We will also take a boat tour on the Tarcoles River to see giant crocodiles and to look for rare birds found only deep in the mangroves.

From here we continue south to the Osa Peninsula, which is called, *The most biologically intense place on Earth*. Osa has the highest biodiversity on the planet! First we explore the eastern side of Osa, then we travel by boat to Drake Bay on the Pacific side. This tour will let you experience some of the most amazing places in Costa Rica, and you will have the potential to see 500+ different species of birds.



Group Size: 8 Participants
Price per person (double occupancy): $3950.00
Single Supplement: $680.00
Single supplement applies to anyone staying by themselves and not sharing a room.

CONTACT EPIC TOURS AT:
INFO@EPICNATURETOURS.COM

There are only 4 spots left on the upcoming CBC Bonus Trip to Costa Rica. To reserve your spot on this trip, contact Paul & Amanda Laurent at info@EpicNatureTours.com or by phone at (931) 452-9254. *Completed COVID 19 Vaccination required for all participants.*

Carolina Bird Club
www.carolinabirdclub.org

Carolina Bird Club
1809 Lakepark Drive
Raleigh, NC 27612

Periodicals Postage Paid
at Pinehurst, NC 28374
and additional mailing offices

Upcoming CBC Meetings

Fall 2021- Fall Birding Weekend – Havelock, NC - September 23-25
Winter 2022 - Outer Banks, NC - January 13 - 16, 2022
Spring 2022 - Black Mountain, NC - May 5 - 8, 2022

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Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of December, February, April, June, August, and October.
www.carolinabirdclub.org

The *CBC Newsletter* is published bimonthly by Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Founded in 1937, the membership is open to anyone interested in birds, natural history, and conservation. Current dues are: Individual & non-profit, $30; Family and Business, $35; Student, $15; Patron, $50 and up; Life, $500; Associate Life (in household with Life Member), $100 (both Life memberships can be paid in four annual installments).
Membership dues include access to publications: the *CBC Newsletter* and *The Chat, which is only available on line.* Tax deductible as allowable by law.

Cost for CBC bird checklists, including postage: 10@$5.45, 25@$13.40, 50@$27.00, and 100@$54.00.

Join the CBC at https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/dues/. Enter change of address at https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/profile/. Order checklists from: CBC Headquarters Secretary, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374.

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Carolina Bird Club
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CBC Newsletter

ISSN No. 0162-7120

For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., Ornithological Society of the Carolinas

Volume 67 **Issue 5** **October 2021**

CBC Outer Banks Trip, December 4 - 5, 2021

This event currently has a waiting list for sign-up! Widely considered at the top of the list for early winter birding sites in North Carolina, the Outer Banks of Dare County are home to thousands of wintering swans, ducks, geese, shorebirds, waders, gulls, and more. Join members of the Carolina Bird Club as we explore the Bodie Island lighthouse area, Oregon Inlet, Pea Island NWR, the ocean beaches of Hatteras and Bodie Islands and other "hotspots".

The trip will focus on waterfowl and shorebird identification as well as building a broad trip list including everything from grebes to sparrows. The trip starts Saturday, December 4, at 7:30 a.m. in the Bodie Island Lighthouse parking lot. Saturday will be devoted to birding along the immediate coast. Sunday will include a stop at Alligator River NWR and potentially Mattamuskeet NWR.

Detailed information including directions, lodging choices, dining opportunities and more will be provided to registrants. Birds that you can expect to see include loons, numbers of Tundra Swans and Snow Geese, most of the dabbling ducks that winter in eastern North Carolina, chances to see sea ducks including all three American scoters, gulls, wintering passerines, and winter shorebirds including American Avocet and possibly Purple Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher and Piping Plover. Alligator River NWR may provide an opportunity to see Black Bear, raptors, shorebirds (if water levels are right) and numbers of Tundra Swan and waterfowl.

Logistics: The fee for this field trip is $45 and advance registration is required. Participation is limited to 12. Participants are responsible for lodging and meals. A number of motels, hotels, and other lodging are available in Nags Head north through Kitty Hawk. We will attempt to carpool in order to reduce the number of vehicles caravanning to the birding sites. Spotting scopes are useful if you have one. Dress for the weather and in layers. If we are enjoying a warm early winter, mosquito repellant may be useful. Lunch on Saturday will likely either be at a seafood restaurant or Subway. If you prefer, bring a bag lunch. A variety of restaurants are open for Saturday dinner.

To register for this field trip contact Steve Shultz sshultz at nc.rr.com or (919) 629-7226. Upon confirmation of your slot on the trip you will be sent a registration form/waiver that can be submitted with your trip fee. Note that there is a modest fee to walk out on Jennette's Pier.

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Welcome New CBC Members!

Roberta Manian
Brooklyn, NY

Jared & Jeffrey Crump
Cary, NC

Christy Hyman
Lincoln, NE

Maxwell Ramey
Vilas, NC

Michael Paravyan
Fayetteville, NC

Rosalind Niederbuehl
Washington, NC

Jim & Kathy Dollar
Davidson, NC

Tim Wilson
Morehead City, NC

Randy Hart
Snow Hill, NC

Moira Maus
Jacksonville, NC

John Divine
Pittsboro, NC

Pam Holliday
Beaufort, NC

Sharon Takacs
Asheboro, NC

Denise Nepveux
David Hill
Durham, NC

Christopher Butterfield
Durham, NC

Megan Gore
Raleigh, NC

John Wellborn
St. Helena Island, SC

Kathryn Mason
Morehead City, NC

Jim & Catherine Nesbit
Wilmington, NC

Finley Monahan – Youth Member
Greenville, SC

Katie Maddox
Myrtle Beach, SC

<u>Deceased Member</u> - Terry Moore, Rozwell, GA

Opportunities for Young Birders

Carolina Bird Club offers scholarships for birders 19 and under living in the Carolinas, who are members of the Carolina Young Birders Club. Scholarships provide assistance in attending bird-related events, such as camps, workshop, training programs or CBC seasonal meetings.

For more information, visit www.carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Winter Birding Weekend – Outer Banks (OBX), NC
-yOur place to Bank on the eXpected & unexpected-
Thursday through Sunday, January 13-16, 2022

Host Hotel-Comfort Inn on the Ocean, 1601 S Virginia Dare Trail, NC 27948(reservations: 252-441-6333)
Check-in time4pm, Check-out no later than 11:00am

Find Your Inner Birder - at the Outer Banks

Short-eared Owl by David Alan, Flikr Creative Commons

The Outer Banks are separated from the mainland by immense bays. Here the warm waters of the Atlantic Ocean, fueled by the not-too-distant, warm offshore Gulf Stream allows both water and air temperatures on this chain of sandy barrier islands to moderate the winter climate here and on the inner banks. The OBX area is a natural magnet for wintering birds. Over-wintering waterfowl find the area ideal as feeding opportunity abounds. Wading birds and passerines, too, arrive for brief stop-overs or over-winter. Yes, these barrier islands' relatively warm conditions provide habitat niches that allow migrating birds to linger, some remaining as they find the area has sources of fuel to survive the winter months. Air temperatures on the NC barrier islands in winter can be 5-10 degrees warmer than a few miles inland of the bays. Couple these conditions with the amazing variety of habitats and the setting is ever-present for high daily bird counts. Bird several habitats and daily counts can mount to over 100 on an all-day expedition.

National Wildlife Refuges along the OBX have significant area for migratory waterfowl and wintering resident species but most protected area is impossible to access except by boat, or restricted to the ocean shoreline. However, on the OBX Pea Island NWR provides the quintessential opportunity to explore a section of the remaining undeveloped wilderness in earnest, and just a short distance from our host hotel. Nearby Alligator River NWR and Mattamuskeet NWR provide additional opportunities for seeking access to habitats for both expected and always hoped-for unexpected species. Almost 180 species was recorded at the last OBX Weekend in 2019. A Golden Eagle always seems to tease at Alligator River NWR. In the winters of 2020 and 2021 a Rough-legged Hawk and Ash-throated Flycatcher were seen for several months. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds can over-winter along the OBX!

The CBC Board is proud to invite you to the OBX. Our host hotel and the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce also extend a warm welcome to members and guests to join us for a fun-filled weekend of birding. There is much information that follows. Please read carefully.

The northeast coastline of North Carolina is probably at its best birding in winter. Your CBC Board has planned Sunday Morning trips with the more unusual specie(s) that have been observed the goal of at least one trip.

Four ½ day trips have been planned specifically with wheel chair users in mind. All birding locations have trails designated for wheel chair users or the walk goes to boardwalks. These boardwalks will allow access to sound side and ocean side viewing. These trips are available to all attendees and would be beneficial for those seeking good footing.

Brian Patteson will lead a pelagic trip to the Gulf Stream on Friday, with Saturday as the backup day in case weather is a factor Friday. Brian has been leading these trips for years and is very well known for serendipity birds on all his Seasonal routes. The registration desk will know the morning of the trip if it is cancelled to Saturday due to weather. Contact Brian for cost and to make your reservation. **Sign up early for this trip as Brian will offer it to the general public in December.** The departure point will be Hatteras or Wanchese depending on weather conditions and recent sightings. The departure location will be announced and communicated to those registered with CBC. On this winter trip you may see Northern Fulmar, Manx Shearwater, Red Phalarope, Great Skua, Black-legged Kittiwake, Atlantic Puffin, Razorbill and Dovekie among others. This time of year the Northern Gannets put on quite a show when on a school of fish and are frequently close at hand for the chum provided, making excellent photo opportunities.

Our host hotel - The Comfort Inn on the Ocean

Jennette's Pier – "Pelagic" Birding from "Shore"

Please send your per-person payment, by check, directly to Brian Patteson, P. O. Box 772, Hatteras, NC 27943. For more information about Brian's trips and the cost for this trip, and preparation for your day, see www.patteson.com. Brian can be reached at 252-986-1363 or by email at cahow1101@gmail.com. **Please remember to indicate on your CBC Registration Form that you plan to do the pelagic trip, even though Brian is handling the reservations.**

Pea Island NWR Is the primary Hotspot at all OBX Weekends, seemingly the year-round site for those expected and unexpected birds. We will bird favorite sites and new sites from the Currituck Banks Forest at Corolla to Cape Hatteras, and inland in Hyde, Tyrrell and Dare Counties.

For so much more see the Trip Descriptions and plan for a full weekend of birding. A whole day of birding in groups of 4 birders can be planned as you participate in a trip called a Pursuit of 100 Birds. A "century" of birds is easily possible and you can gain experience at many habitats that harbor the possibilities.

The Comfort Inn on the Ocean will be CBC headquarters for the meeting. This Inn boasts amenities that include private balconies, in-room refrigerator and microwave, as well as a heated pool and Jacuzzi to chase away those January winds. Go to https://www.choicehotels.com/north-carolina/kill-devil-hills/comfort-inn-hotels for more information about the welcoming hotel.

*The CBC rates for this meeting are truly outstanding at $69 per night for an ocean view room or $49 per night for the street side. This cost does not include tax of 12.75%.When you call **(252) 441-6333 to make your reservation**, let them know you are with the **Carolina Bird Club – January 2022**to receive the special rate. **This rate will be guaranteed until December 13, 2021.** Check-in time is 4 PM and check-out 11 AM. Please guard the check-out time.

*The hotel rate **does** include breakfast starting early for attendees at 5:30 Mon, Friday and Saturday. Sunday morning is a "late" breakfast at 6:30 AM. As of 7/1/21 breakfast is limited to pre-packaged and pre-sealed items only. You may very well wish to use your room's microwave to round out your breakfast. If Covid conditions allow then breakfast will be changed to include the normal hot offerings of meats and eggs and waffles with which you are familiar at today's hotels basic morning buffets. For all-day trips a brown bag breakfast will be available.*

*Please sign up for the banquet buffet dinner on Saturday evening on the CBC website when you complete your trip selections. Sign-up attempts at the Registration Table will be too late. Advance reservation is required for the banquet. The buffet cost, including gratuity, is $35per person, again due with your meeting registration.

*Deadline for hotel and banquet reservations is December 13th. Room reservations after this date cannot be guaranteed the CBC conference rate. Be sure to visit the Conference Registration table as soon as you check-in at the hotel, and sign in for the meeting. Your meeting packet will include a confirmed event schedule and driving directions for each birding trip, plus any meal tickets you have purchased.

We will have a presentation each evening. (Signs will be posted regarding masks and Covid as it applies to the presentations.) These informative talks are shown in the agenda below. Each presentation is preceded by a Social with cash bar. Aimee Tomcho of NC Audubon will update us on the extensive efforts to develop and improve habitat for the Golden-winged Warbler, a bird we expect will be a highlight on trips at the Spring Birding Weekend at Black Rock, NC in May 2022. John Gerwin of North Carolina's Museum of Natural Sciences will enlighten us on birds in the Carolinas with gaps in their breeding territories. Have you heard of Wayne's Warbler? Yes, it is a NC and SC nesting species.

This Birding Weekend's catered buffet dinner will be on Saturday evening. The banquet will be at 6:30 PM after the Social. The evening keynote speaker presentation will begin at 7:30 PM. Our Keynote Speaker will be the affable Steve Shultz.

Online registration begins Saturday, November 20, 2021at 2:00 PM, and closes December 30, 2021 at noon.

Please note that December 30, 2021 at noon is the last date for any refunds for CBC registration or dinner cancellations. Also, very important, if you have to cancel please notify the Headquarters Secretary so we can give your field trip space to someone on the waiting list. Walk-in registrations are accepted at the meeting

All trips will leave from the hotel. Please reserve your room and thank them for their hospitality. CBC greatly appreciates your use of the host hotel. The rate is exceptional and you actually save CBC costs by staying with us.

Registration packets will also contain directions to the locations of the field trips offered during the course of the weekend. The *North Carolina Birding Trail*—*Coastal Plain Trail Guide* can be used to study up on the Outer Banks sites you will be visiting, as well as planning your trip to and from Kill Devil Hills. John Fussell's A Birder's Guide to Coastal North Carolina and Mike Tove's Guide to the Offshore Wildlife of the Northern Atlantic are standards for birding this area of North Carolina.

Important note: South Pond (south of the Visitor's Center) at Pea Island NWR, other than viewed from the NC12 shoulder, is ABSOLUTELY off-limits to casual birding. Please do not enter posted areas at South Pond or any other site unless you possess specific, explicit permission. Trespassers are being charged and fined. Our event is registered with the NWR to allow management of the entire NWR and permission into areas limited to the general public. Your leader will know where you are permitted access. If you are unsure do not enter.

Thursday January 18 4:00-9:00PM Opening Registration Dinner on your own 6:00-6:45PM Cash Bar/Social Hour 7:00PM-7:45PM Evening Program. "The Golden-winged Warbler" by Aimee Tomcho of NC Audubon	 Location: Host Hotel Location: Host Hotel Location: Host Hotel
Friday January 19 Field Trips (1/2 and full-day trips) Dinner on your own. 6:00-7:00PM Cash Bar/Social Hour 7:00PM Evening Program. "What is a species? What is a subspecies? Who decides? What does it mean for birds of the Southeast?" by John Gerwin, NC Museum of Natural Sciences	 Location: Start at Host Hotel Location: Host Hotel Location: Host Hotel
Saturday January 20 Field Trips (1/2 and full-day trips) 5:30-6:30PM Social Gathering. Cash Bar. 6:30-7:15PM Banquet Dinner 7:15-7:30PM Announcements. 7:30-8:30 PM Evening Presentation, by Steve Shultz 8:30PM Species Countdown	 Location: Start at Host Hotel Location: Host Hotel Location: Host Hotel. Pre-registration required for the banquet dinner) Location: Host Hotel Location: Host Hotel

Finally, our trip leaders help the Board before the Weekend with important planning assistance. So please thank them for the personal goals of a trip that helps you locate, identify and learn the rich bird life in the area.

Registration: Lobby at entrance to Ballroom.

January 14th, Thursday 4:00pm – 9:00pm, January 15th& 16th Friday and Saturday 6:45 – 7:45am and 12:30 – 1:30pm

Field Trip sheets will be in the registration room. After picking up your registration packet, please put a check mark by your name on each of your trip sheets, so the trip leaders will know you have checked in for your trip. There will be people available to answer any questions regarding trips. If you are not able to attend a trip, please cross out your name, so someone from the wait list can fill your place.

Departure Times: The field trip departure times are for leaving the hotel. **Please arrive minimum10-15 minutes early**. Look for the sign with your trip number and let the leader know you are there. We encourage carpooling. Please consider contributing toward gas expenses if you carpool. Trip leader cell phone numbers will be provided. If you cannot go on a trip, make every effort to advise one of the following: trip leader, meeting coordinator, or advise someone who is on the trip so the group doesn't wait for you.

***All Day Trips*:** Please bring a lunch, snacks, water. Many of the sites are remote with no nearby restaurants.

Hotel Returns: Morning trips should be back to the hotel by noon; afternoon and all-day trips by 5:00 PM.

CBC Research, educational and conservation grants are available through the Carolina Bird Club. For additional information visit www.carolinabirdclub.org.

2022 CBC OUTER BANKS MEETING FIELD TRIP DESCRIPTIONS

HALF DAY FIELD TRIPS

Trip 1 – Owl Prowl at Alligator River NWR
Want to start birding officially and early with this winter's edition of CBC's OBX Weekend? Sign up to meet this tour on your way to Nags Head. The leader will meet participants at the entrance to Alligator R. NWR at Milltail Road at 5 PM. Short-eared Owl is the primary target, followed by stops for possible Great Horned, Barred and Screech Owls. Plan for approximately 2 hours.
Conditions: Along the gravel roads of the refuge. A waterless toilet is at the entrance to ARNWR.

Trip 2 – Palmetto Peartree Preserve & Futch Game Lands
We will look among the possible seven species of woodpeckers for the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker. During our search we should see a good assortment of woodland and edge species. Learn more about P3 by visiting https://www.conservationfund.org/projects/palmetto-peartree-preserve. After birding here the group will travel to the Futch Game Lands where the flooded fields and catfish ponds hold ducks as well as other waterbirds and shorebirds.
Approximate Travel Time:1 hour
Conditions: Vary from uneven trails to roadside surfaces. There is a service Station at Mann's Harbor; otherwise, plan on no restrooms.

Trips 3, 23 & 31 – Audubon Pine Island Sanctuary & Duck Boardwalk
Audubon Preserve is a remnant of maritime sandy forest and brush along Currituck Sound. The varied habitats and boardwalk will provide opportunity for land and water birds, and raptors are often identified as they hunt over the woodlands. Duck Town Boardwalk is a 0.4 mile gem. We will scope the sound for loons and ducks. Orange-crowned Warbler is often found along the Boardwalk as well as winter sparrows.
Approximate Travel Time: 45 minutes to Pine Island
Conditions: Vary from wet turf to gravelly trails to a boardwalk. Restroom at Duck.

Trip 4 &24 – Alligator River NWR (Rt. 264 Corridor to Milltail Road)
The east side of ARNWR has woodland but also many wet fields. We will travel Rt. 264 as far as Stumpy Point Bay, targeting Sound waterbirds. Then the drive will go west into ARNWR to Milltail Road's boat ramp area seeking woodland species, and finishing at the fields across from the Maintenance Buildings or the trail at the Rt. 64 intersection. Uncommon birds in the area have included Golden Eagle and Rough-legged Hawk.
Approximate Travel Time:40 minutes
Conditions: Gravel roads. Restroom options will be quite limited.

Trip 5 – Corolla Escapade (A Handicap Accessible Trip)
4 HC Accessible Trips are scheduled this weekend, and several others of our trips are partially HC Accessible. There should be space available for non-HC attendees – same great birding but with good footing. This trip will visit both public and privately owned boardwalks to the Sound at Currituck Banks Forest Trail Preserve, the OBX Center for Wildlife Education and Duck Town Boardwalk.
Approximate Travel Time: 1 hour
Conditions: Boardwalks. Restrooms will be at Duck only, or a stop at a service station.

Trips 6& 27 –Pea Island NWR Visitors Center and Southside Dike
In the morning the pond behind the PI Visitors Center is lit by the rising sun. Resting and actively feeding birds are in the best direction for viewing field ID clues. The adjacent dike affords views of North Pond and Newfield Pond, capped by a 2-story platform that also overlooks the inland waters and marsh.

Approximate Travel Time: 40 minutes to the Visitors Center
Conditions: Wide grassy trail to the viewing platform. Restroom at the Visitor's Center

Trips 7,30& 37– Jennette's Pier (Nags Head) Ocean Watch. ($3 entry fee)
A scope is essential on this trip to scan the Atlantic for the winter near-shore birds and occasional pelagic species that feast on the bounty of the ocean. If you don't have a scope, there should be plenty in the group. Your leader will scan the ocean with you as you watch the action for Loons, grebes, scoters Razorbills, Gannets, sea ducks, gulls, and hopefully a Dovekie or Shearwaters.
Approximate Travel Time:15minutes
Conditions: Boardwalk. Restroom in the Pier Entry Building.

Trip 8 -WaterfowlID Workshop/FieldID
This workshop will focus on key characteristics, such as profile, foraging behaviors, and habitat. The leader will provide clues to field ID features or activity which can aid birders on all levels to describe a species. The field trip location(s) will be as determined by the leader.
Approximate Travel Time: TBD

Trip 9 – Nags Head Woods Preserve & Jennette's Pier Escapade (HC Accessible Trip)
The forested sandy dunes of the Nature Conservancy's Nags Head Woods Preserve are home to woodland species, some of which curtail migration for the warmer zone of the OBX. Their Handicap Accessible Trail offers opportunity for chair users, and other participants, to search for birds in mixed foraging flocks. See Trip 6 for a description of Jennette's Pier. ($3 fee to the pier)
Approximate Travel Time: 10 minutes to Nags Head Woods
Conditions: Packed trail and boardwalks. A restroom is in the Pier Access Building.

Trip 10 – Kitty Hawk Woods Coastal Reserve area & Kitty Hawk Pier ($3 Entry Fee)
Several protected woodlands at Kitty Hawk will provide opportunity for wintering landbirds. A Sound view stop is planned and special permission has been acquired with the Pier at the Hilton Garden Inn at Kitty Hawk for ocean viewing. This final stop will fully and truly round out the birding opportunities. If access is unavailable at the pier due to hotel events the Regional Beach Access will be used.
Approximate Travel Time: 20 minutes
Conditions: The pier or Beach Access has a restroom.

Trip 11 & 35 – Pea Island NWR North Pond and Visitor's Center
North Pond is open to the public year-round. Simply enjoy the thousands of ducks and other waterbirds. Know we have a great opportunity to be a part of yet another tour to see the expected and unexpected at PINWR. A stop in the Oregon Inlet area may be included as time permits.
Approximate Travel Time: 30 minutes

Trip 12 & 28– Oregon Inlet and Bodie Light
It seems every winter an unexpected bird spends the season in the dunes overlooking the ocean on the south side of Oregon Inlet. The local Peregrine Falcon never reveals it's night time roost but who looks for it at those hours? On the north side of the bridge is the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center, where we will scope the inlet for Long-tailed Duck and other diving ducks. We'll continue on to Bodie Lighthouse Pond where we will scope for waterfowl, shorebirds, and waders from the observation platform. The boardwalk to the platform traverses marsh that is good for rails and marsh wrens. The platform is the last stop as the evening light can be spectacular on the waterfowl. Note Trip 25 is the morning option for these sites.
Approximate Travel Time: 30 minutes to Oregon Inlet
Conditions: Sand paths on the south side of Oregon Inlet, pavement on the north side and where a restroom is available. A restroom is also located at the Lighthouse.

Trips 13 - Roanoke Island Marshes &Wanchese Harbor and Marshes

Habitats will include woodland edges for winter land species, marsh birding and water views over the sound. We will tailor the visit based on local observations but likely start at the Roanoke Marshes Game Lands in search of species such as Marsh Wren, Seaside Sparrow, and Clapper and Virginia Rails. The impoundment should hold a few shorebirds and waterfowl. Then we will stop by the harbor in Wanchese Village and scan the surrounding water and marina, interesting for the numerous gulls and landbirds that roam about oyster piles. Just south of the harbor is a road across the marsh ending at the Sound.

Approximate Travel Time: 25min.

Conditions: Grassy trails at the Roanoke Marshes to gravelly roads around the harbor. Use service stations for a restroom.

Trip 14 & 33– Alligator River NWR (Buffalo "Camp" Road to Milltail Road)

Alligator River NWR holds miles of huge impoundments with THOUSANDS of ducks, and often shorebirds. The trail at the end of Buffalo Road affords opportunity for landbirds easily missed with so much flooded impoundments demanding viewer attention. The Buffalo Soldiers during the civil war resided here, the source of the namesake. Not a part of the tour is an option to stay in the Refuge at dusk after the tour at the intersection of Sawyer Lake Road and Milltail Road, the place to be for Short-eared Owl, Red Wolf and Black Bear.

Approximate Travel Time: 35 minutes

Conditions: Gravel roads. Restrooms are limited. There is a waterless toilet at the entrance to ARNWR (Rt. 64 at Milltail Rd.)

Trip 15 & 36 - Photo Workshops. This is an opportunity to glean tips that will help you hone your skills in the field. There is one morning and one afternoon trip affording differing light conditions. Bird with your lenses and binoculars.

Approximate travel time: TBD

Conditions: Sites will be selected by the leader.

Trip 25 & 47 – Birding Basics – Field Identification

This trip is designed for those new to birding, or even less comfortable describing a sighting, but anyone can come along! Birding techniques will be discussed including how to view a bird, what are diagnostic marks, how to "pish", the importance of habitat, how to act, and even what to wear. The leader can help you with what to look for in binoculars, scopes, and field guides. The leader will decide the destination(s).

Approximate Travel time and conditions :TBD

Trip 26 – Duck Town Boardwalk and Kitty Hawk Pier Escapade (HC Accessible Trip),

The almost 1/2 mile boardwalk at Duck is a viewing platform for both wintering landbirds and waterbirds. It is located along a brushy shoreline and the Sound. As time permits other Sound view locations may be included. The trip also includes the great opportunity granted to CBC for ocean viewing at the Hilton Garden Inn Pier ($3 fee). Scopes are the best tool for this last stop. If the pier is closed due to an event at the hotel the nearby Regional Beach Access will be our site for ocean viewing.

Approximate Travel Time: 35 minutes to Duck

Conditions: Boardwalks. Restrooms will be at both sites.

Trip 29 – Northern Roanoke Island - Fort Raleigh Area

The northern area of Roanoke Island has several birding sites visited by the locals. Habitats range from manicured turf to woodlands and Sound viewing. If Elizabethan Gardens is used by the leader a fee is required ($8). The trip may go as far south as the Roanoke Island Marshes.

Approximate Travel Time: 25min.

Conditions: Maintained trails vary. Restrooms will be available, either onsite or at a nearby service station.

Trip 32 – Futch Gamelands& River Road (ARNWR)
There are hundreds of acres of impoundments at the Futch Game Lands. Ducks move about the artificially flooded cells of ag lands. Shorebirds and marsh sparrows round out the impoundment birds and brushy woodland edges offer a variety of passerines. River Road can be a bonanza when rains flood the field.
Approximate Travel Time: 45 minutes to the Game Lands
Conditions: Gravelly roads and grassy paths along dikes. Plan on no facilities available.

Trip 34 – Pea Island NWR Visitor's Center and Bodie Light Boardwalk Escapade (HC Accessible)
The PI Visitors Center viewing windows and area within the parking lot offer excellent birding on North Pond, especially for ducks, with chances for Brown & White Pelicans a distinct possibility. We will then travel to the Boardwalk at Bodie Light where we will scope for waterfowl, shorebirds, and waders from the lower portion of the observation platform. The boardwalk to the platform cuts through marsh that is excellent for rails and marsh wrens. The platform is the last stop as evening light can be spectacular on the waterfowl.
Approximate Travel Time: 35 minutes to PINWR
Conditions: A restroom is available at both sites.

Trip 45 – Alligator River NWR or uncommon/rarities seen
Trip 46 - Search for Uncommon & Rarities Seen

FULL DAY FIELD TRIPS

Trip 16 – Pelagic Birding Adventure.
Extensively experienced, world renown pelagic birder, Brian Patteson, will lead a day trip on Friday for intrepid, life-bird-seekers with a full day afloat out toward the Gulf Stream. Bring your lunch, drinks, and fowl weather gear for this adventure. We will leave from a port determined by Brian just before the weekend. Note the trip is scheduled for Friday but Saturday is the rain date for this trip.
Approximate Travel Time: TBD
Conditions: Pelagic waters: Restroom onboard the vessel.

Trip 17 & 38–A Pursuit for 100 Birds
Rules for this Full (up to 12 hours allowed) Day of Fun Birding address the scoring. Bird wherever the team decides. The scoring method requires a team to win. Teams of 4 with varying experience levels will vie for 100, or more, species in 12 hours. You do not have to be an experienced birder to join in this fun. The team gets a score of up to 4 points at the end of the day for each bird tallied. The points per bird is based on how many members saw or heard the bird. (4 points for 4 members, 3 points 3 members, but only 1 point for 2 members. If only 1 member sees a bird the team gets 0 points but the bird counts toward the species total.) The team has all day for all members to see each bird. Full rules available at registration check-in. 4 teams maximum each day.
Approximate Travel Time: Start at Host Hotel as early as 5 am. Return promptly by 5pm.

Trip 18 – Lake Pungo and Phelps. (Pocosin Lakes NWR). Pocosin Lakes is famous for huge flocks of wintering Snow Geese lifting off at sunrise, a spectacle in itself. We will look through flocks of blackbirds with hopes of spotting a Yellow-headed Blackbird. Overhead, we'll keep an eye out for Golden Eagles as this is one of the most reliable spots in the state for these awesome birds. Other possibilities include waterfowl species, and farm field and edge species, such as sparrows, pipits and Horned Larks. There is a

lot of territory to cover on this trip with potential side trips on the way back in the Mattamuskeet NWR area.
Approximate Travel Time: 1.5 hours
Conditions: Roads, boardwalks and dirt paths. Restroom sites will be available but very few.

Trips – 19&41 - Hatteras Point & Hatteras Island,
A full day that just has… well… promise. We will bird the Point Campground, the Salt Pond and the beach, sorting through the gull flocks in search of Thayer's, Iceland, Glaucous and California Gulls. Lesser Black-backed Gulls should be common. We will scan the ocean for alcids or other rarities. The salt pond usually hosts good populations of birds. Snow Buntings, Horned Larks and a Sprague's Pipit may be present. Your leader may plan a stop at a local woodland area or some side trips on the way back depending on what has been seen that morning at points north. **Please note:** We will be walking the sandy beach to Hatteras Point, about two miles round trip.
Approximate Travel Time: 1 hour 10 minutes

Trip 20 & 44 – Fort Raleigh to Wanchese
This is the all-day trip to discover the many hotspots on the north end of Roanoke Island and have adequate time to search the Roanoke Marshes and the marshes at Wanchese.
Approximate Travel Time: 25min.
Conditions: Maintained trails vary. Restrooms will be available, either onsite or at a nearby service station.

Trips 21 & 43 - Pea Island NWR (North Pond to Split Pea Bridge)
As an all-day trip you will have more valuable time to scan the area habitats and increase those chances for life birds, or to study the posture and feeding habits that are guides to shorebird ID. The trip also goes south of the Visitors Center to the Newfield Platform (NOT the dike) and the Oceanview Trail for pelagic species hopefully near shore, and may possibly travel further south to the marsh area at Split Pea Bridge. A stop at Oregon Inlet will be considered dependent upon time. DO **NOT** WALK THE DIKE BEYOND THE NEWFIELD PLATFORM.
Approximate Travel Time: 35 minutes
Conditions: Sandy road shoulders and path to the ocean, grassy trails. Restrooms at Oregon Inlet and the PINWR Visitors Center.

Trip 40 - Mattamuskeet NWR.
A birder's paradise, Mattamuskeet can be incredible. We will bird the Lake Landing area for waterfowl, shorebirds and waders, sorting through the more common species and hoping for something rare. We will also bird along the causeway, famous for its overwintering passerines and at other sections of the refuge where passerine habitat abounds. The entrance road follows the main viewing impoundment.
Approximate Travel Time: 1 hour 30 minutes
Conditions: Restroom at Lake Landing and in the Refuge Visitors Center at the end of the entrance road.

Trip 42 – Habitats from North Corolla to Kitty Hawk ($3 Fee)
It takes more than a day to fully explore the area between Corolla and Kitty Hawk. However, the pace of this trip and stops will allow multiple opportunities to see landbirds and waterbirds along this coastal area. The trip starts at the Currituck Banks Coastal Forest Trail, not on previous OBX itineraries, visiting the 4000+ feet of boardwalk at Duck, the Audubon Pine Island Sanctuary, Kitty Hawk Woods Coastal Reserve and ending at the Kitty Hawk Pier. The variety of habitats boosts opportunities for many species.
Approximate Travel Time: 1 hour
Conditions: Boardwalks primarily. Restrooms at Duck and the ocean viewing site. Service stations may be nearby.

Thursday, January 13

Trip 1 – 5:00 PM Owl Prowl at Alligator River NWR

Friday, January 14 *Morning Half Day*

Trip 2 – 7:00am Palmetto Peartree Preserve and Futch Game Lands
Trip 3 – 7:00am Audubon Pine Island Sanctuary and Duck Boardwalk
Trip 4 – 7:00am Alligator River NWR (Rt. 264 Corridor to Milltail Rd.)
Trip 5 – 7:15am Corolla Escapade (A Handicap Accessible Trip)
Trip 6 – 7:15am Pea Island NWR Visitors Center and Southside Dike
Trip 7 – 7:30am Jennette's Pier Ocean Watch
Trip 8 – 8:00am Waterfowl ID Workshop

Friday, January 14 *Afternoon Half Day*

Trip 9– 1:00pm Nags Head Woods Preserve & Jennette's Pier Escapade (HC Accessible Trip)
Trip 10 –1:00pm Kitty Hawk Woods Coastal Reserve area & Kitty Hawk Pier
Trip 11 –1:15pm Pea Island NWR North Pond & Visitors Center
Trip 12 – 1:15pm Oregon Inlet & Bodie Light
Trip 13 –1:15pm Roanoke Island Marshes & Wanchese Harbor and Marshes
Trip 14 – 1:00pm Alligator River NWR (Buffalo "Camp" Rd. to Milltail Rd.)
Trip 15 – 1:30pm Photo Workshop

Friday, January 14 *All Day*

Trip 16 – 5:30am Pelagic Birding Adventure (Rain date is Sunday 1/15/22)
Trip 17 – 5:00am A Pursuit for 100 Birds
Trip 18 – 6:15am Pocosin Lakes (Pungo and Phelps) NWR
Trip 19 –6:15am Hatteras Point & Hatteras Island
Trip 20 –6:30am Roanoke Island – Ft. Raleigh to Wanchese
Trip 21 –6:45am Pea Island NWR (North Pond to Split Pea Bridge)

Saturday, January 15 *Morning Half Day*

Trip 23 – 6:45am Audubon Pine Island Sanctuary & Duck Boardwalk
Trip 24 –6:45am Alligator River NWR (RT. 264 to Milltail Rd.)
Trip 25 –7:00am Birding Basics – Field Identification
Trip 26– 7:00am Duck Town Boardwalk & Kitty Hawk Pier Escapade (HC Accessible)
Trip 27– 7:15am Pea Island NWR Visitors Center and Southside Dike
Trip 28– 7:15am Oregon Inlet & Bodie Light
Trip 29– 7:30am Northern Roanoke Island – Ft. Raleigh Area
Trip 30– 7:30am Jennette's Pier Ocean Watch

Saturday, January 15 *Afternoon Half Day*

Trip 31– 1:00pm Audubon Pine Island Sanctuary & Duck Boardwalk
Trip 32 – 1:00pm Futch Game Lands & River Rd. in Alligator River NWR
Trip 33 – 1:00pm Alligator River NWR (Buffalo "Camp" Rd. to Milltail Rd.)
Trip 34 – 1:15pm Pea Island NWR Visitors Center & Bodie Light Boardwalk Escapade (HC Accessible)
Trip 35 –1:30pm Pea Island NWR North Pond& Visitors Center
Trip 36 – 1:30pm Photography Workshop
Trip 37 – 1:30pm Jennette's Pier Ocean Watch

Saturday, January 15 *All Day*

Trip 38 –5:00am A Pursuit for 100 Birds
Trip 16 – 5:30am Pelagic Trip **(Rain Date)**
Trip 40 – 6:15am Mattamuskeet NWR
Trip 41 – 6:15am Hatteras Point& Hatteras Island
Trip 42 –6:30am Habitats from North Corolla to Kitty Hawk
Trip 43 – 6:45am Pea Island NWR (North Pond to Split Pea Bridge)
Trip 44 - 6:30am Roanoke Island – Fort Raleigh to Wanchese

Sunday, January 16

Trip 45 – 7:30am Alligator River NWR or uncommon/rarities seen
Trip 46 – 7:30am Search for uncommon & Rarities seen
Trip 47– 7:30am Birding Basics – Field Identification

A Pursuit for 100 Birds

This is a count to encourage seeing as many species as practical in a designated 12 hour period by as many members of the both minimum and maximum 4 member team as possible. Some members will be less skilled and are encouraged to be members to learn more details about birds they see regularly, rarely see or have never seen.

Rules for this Full (up to 12 hours allowed) Day of Fun Birding address the scoring. Bird wherever the team decides. The scoring method requires a team to win. Teams of 4 with varying experience levels will vie for up to 100, or more, species in 12 hours. You do not have to be an experienced birder to join in this fun. The team gets a score of up to 4 points at the end of the day for each bird tallied. The points awarded per bird is based on how many members saw or heard the bird. (4 points for 4 members, 3 points 3 members, but only 1 point for 2 members. If only 1 member sees a bird the team gets 0 points but the bird counts toward the species total.) The team's Tally Sheet will be available on the morning of the walk.

Approximate Travel Time: Start at Host Hotel as early as 5 am. Return promptly by 5pm and immediately give the count sheets to the Birding Weekend Coordinator. Les Coble, 410-829-5501.

1. Counting

A. Count only full species as indicated by the current ABA Checklist and Supplements.

B. Birds must be conclusively identified by sight or sound. Use common sense: if in doubt about the bird's identity, don't count it. Identification may be confirmed after the original observation if that identification is based solely on field notes made while the bird was living and unrestrained. A photo taken may also be used. The team must ID the bird, not a birder met after the observation who is reviewing the info/photo. A bird identified to one of a species group (i.e., scaup, small alcid, Western/Semipalmated Sandpiper, Common/Arctic Tern) may be counted as a species if no other in that group is counted.

C. An introduced species may be counted if its status in the Count area meets the criteria for the ABA Checklist.

D. Birds counted must be alive, wild, and unrestrained. Birds attracted to tape-recorders or feeders may be counted. Injured birds may be counted if wild and unrestrained. Dead birds cannot be counted.

2. Time

A. All counting must be within the 12-hour period between 5 AM and 5 PM on either Friday or Saturday of the CBC Birding Weekend.

B. The team may designate a time-out for gas, food, rest, or separate motorized travel. A bird first seen or heard during a time-out may be counted.

3. Area – Any geographic area may be covered.

4. Travel

A. Travel may be by any means, provided that all participants remain within direct voice-contact distance during all travel except timeouts.

B. When motorized vehicles are used, all participants must travel in the same vehicle.

5. Participants

A. A minimum and maximum of 4 participants constitutes a team.

B. Nonparticipating companions may accompany the team and may record or may drive the vehicle. A companion may not aid in identification of, nor in any way indicate to the participants the presence of any bird not previously identified by every participant.

6. Conduct

Each participant must:

A. remain within direct voice-contact distance of all other participants at all times, except during time-outs.

B. Make every reasonable effort to identify personally and to help other team members identify every species counted by the team.

C. Count only birds personally and unquestionably identified.

D. Review the Rules before the start of the Count.

7. Outside Information

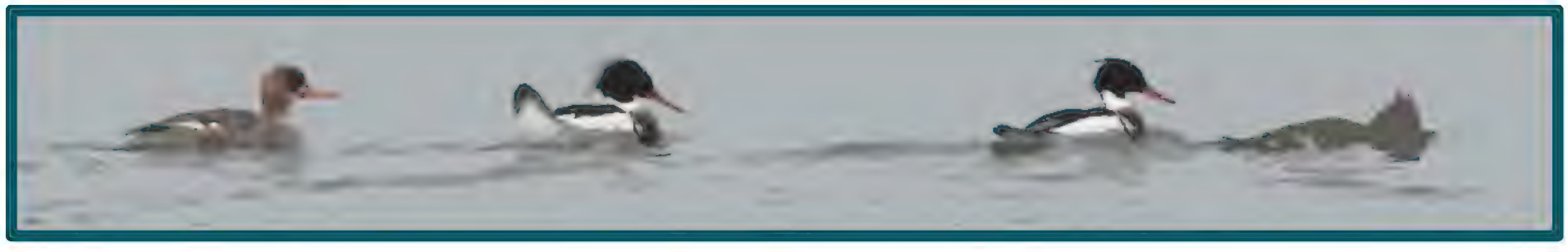
A. During the Count, teams must make every reasonable effort to avoid receiving bird-finding help from nonparticipants. Phone and radio contacts and pre-arranged field encounters are not permitted. Participants may not travel with or walk any substantial distance with non-participants, except with companions, as provided in Rule 5B. When other birders are encountered accidentally, participants may not solicit bird-finding information and should avoid receiving any information from them, to the extent that common courtesy allows. If despite all precautions information is received during an accidental encounter, the team may use it.

B. Any information received prior to the Count may be used during the Count.

8. Ethics – Each participant should strive to maintain proper birding ethics at all times.

9. Eligibility for "Champion"

A Count will be eligible for "Champion" if all of the foregoing rules have been observed.



Carolina Bird Club
www.carolinabirdclub.org

Carolina Bird Club
1809 Lakepark Drive
Raleigh, NC 27612

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Upcoming CBC Meetings

Fall 2021- Fall Birding Weekend – Havelock, NC - September 23-25
Winter 2022 - Outer Banks, NC - January 13 - 16, 2022
Spring 2022 - Black Mountain, NC - May 5 - 8, 2022

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Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of December, February, April, June, August, and October.
www.carolinabirdclub.org

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Membership dues include access to publications: the *CBC Newsletter* and *The Chat, which is only available on line.* Tax deductible as allowable by law.

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Join the CBC at https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/dues/. Enter change of address at https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/profile/. Order checklists from: CBC Headquarters Secretary, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374.

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Volume 67 **Issue 6** **December 2021**

COVID SAFETY PROTOCOL FOR WINTER BIRDING WEEKEND AT OBX AND OTHER INFO FOR ATTENDEES

Covid Safety - Our next in-person meeting will take place in Nags Head, North Carolina from January 13–16, 2022. The Executive Committee of the Carolina Bird Club (CBC) unanimously voted to require full vaccination against COVID-19 in order to attend future CBC meetings starting with the Nags Head meeting, until the pandemic is clearly in check. The Carolina Bird Club defines "fully-vaccinated" as 2 weeks after the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or 2 weeks after the single-dose Janssen/Johnson & Johnson vaccine. No "booster" vaccines will be required to attend the Nags Head meeting. Members who wish to attend our first meeting in two years will be asked to indicate their status as fully-vaccinated in order to be able to register for the meeting.

In order to make registration as fast and smooth as possible, we HIGHLY RECOMMEND that an image of each meeting registrant's COVID-19 vaccination card be sent in advance to Carol Bowman, the club's headquarters secretary, by email at hq@carolinabirdclub.org, prior to January 8, 2022. It will be acceptable to obscure your date of birth in the image if you prefer. However, if this is inconvenient, you can wait and present your vaccination card (or a photograph thereof) in person during registration at the meeting, but DO NOT FORGET to bring it! All individuals understand and acknowledge by their registration for the meeting that they will not be allowed to participate in any meeting activities until proof of vaccination is satisfied; ergo, if you choose not to send Carol Bowman proof of vaccination, DON'T FORGET YOUR CARD! The CBC will be unbending about this requirement.

For all indoor group activities, ventless masks that completely and snugly cover the nose and mouth must be worn, unless actively eating a meal. If you intend to carpool with others, unless everyone in the car agrees beforehand to not wear them in the vehicle, masks must be worn. Masks need not be worn during outside activities, though individual members who feel more comfortable wearing theirs may choose to do so.

Individuals who are immuno-suppressed and cannot be vaccinated against COVID-19 may not register for CBC in-person meetings until such time as the CDC declares an end to the COVID-19 pandemic. Proof of full-vaccination is required of all attendees. There will be no exemptions for any reason.

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Thanks for your cooperation in making the meeting safe for everyone. It will be great to see everyone again!

Updates – Due to low response to the trip titled "A Pursuit for 100 Birds" it has been removed from the trip schedule and replaced with 4 one-half day trips. Please see the online registration section on the website for trip offerings.

Steve Shultz is our Keynote Speaker at Saturday evening's festivities. His light yet highly informative presentation is entitled "*The Origin of Species: Birds of the Galapagos Islands*."

CBC Executive Committee Elections

By Paul Dayer - Chairman of the Nominating Committee

Just like the rest of the world, our CBC Executive Committee member terms and election process have been thrown just a bit off kilter by the Pandemic. We have been busy planning, cancelling and replanning Seasonal Meetings and are confident that we are ***finally*** getting back on your calendar in January. We have a number of Executive Committee member positions that would normally have expired at our regular Spring Meeting in May 2021, had we actually held such a meeting. We have finally assembled a complete slate of nominees for terms that will now commence at the conclusion of our 2022 Winter Meeting at Nags Head. The terms for these new nominees, normally elected for one, two or three-year terms(as noted below) commencing in May, will have an extension of their term adding the period from January 2022 to May 2022.

Members of the Executive Committee guide the CBC by setting our club's operating strategies and policies, develop club programs, seek and respond to members' ideas and oversee the safekeeping of our operating and endowment funds. Our Members-at-Large lead the planning committees for each of our seasonal meetings. If you are interested in serving the CBC in the future as a member of the Executive Committee, please send an email to hq@carolinabirdclub.org.

Once again, we will hold our election virtually. In January 2022, during the week before our Winter Meeting in Nags Head, each CBC member will receive an email that will provide instructions on how to vote for our proposed slate of new Executive Committee members.

The nominees for Executive Committee positions are:
Treasurer - Jared Miles - Charlotte, NC (First of three one-year terms)
Secretary - Karaleah Reichart - Raleigh, NC (First of three one-year terms)
SC Vice-President - Cathy Miller - Charleston, SC (One three-year term)
Western NC Member-at-Large - Barbara ("Kitty") Reynolds - Asheville, NC (First of two two-year terms)
Eastern NC Member-at-Large - Betsy Kane - Washington, NC (First of two two-year terms)
SC Member-at-Large - Richard Hayes - Charleston, SC (First of two two-year terms)

Incumbents in positions eligible for re-election are listed below. The eligible term for re-election is listed following the incumbent's name:
President - Steve Tracy - Gastonia, NC (Final one-year term)

CBC Research, educational and conservation grants are available through the Carolina Bird Club. For additional information visit www.carolinabirdclub.org.

Welcome New CBC Members!

Upgrade to Life Membership - Stephen & Barbara Thomas
New Life Member - Jeremy Wrenn, Wake Forest, NC

Stella Schick
Durham, NC

Katie Maddox
Myrtle Beach, SC

Sally Siko
Fuquay-Varina, NC

Thomas Simpson
Jacksonville, NC

Patricia Rice
Southern Pines, NC

David Southwick
St. Albans, VT

Pam Palmer
John Holmes
Mount Gilead, NC

Jeanette & William Van Tassell
New Bern, NC

Edmund Welch
Columbia, SC

Deb Aronson
Ben Williams
Merritt, NC

Michelle, RaShawn, Mckenzie,
Kenneth & River Arnold
Siler City, NC

Karen Natoli
Fripp Island, SC

Steve Dearman
Statesville, NC

Marianne Mooney
Joseph Sasfy
Asheville, NC

Angela & Marty Rosenberg
Pittsboro, NC

Ian and Janelle McDonald
Hickory, NC

Elisha Wall – Youth Member
Genevieve Wall – Youth Member
Greensboro, NC

Marcelle& Nick Ross
North Myrtle Beach, SC

Micah & Mary Clark
Fayetteville, NC

Amy Tomcho
Burnsville, NC

Mark Remick
Carol Stephenson
Asheville, NC

Laura Eason
Cary, NC

Cynthia & Chuck Darling
Jupiter, FL

Liling Warren
Apex, NC

Cheryl Day
Tryon, NC

Kade Lockhart – Youth Member, Shelby, NC

Cathryn Greenberg
Arden, NC

Kenneth Ward
Box Elder, SD

Cameron Williams
Lewisville, NC

Teresa Moazed
New Bern, NC

Clayton Gibb
Asheville, NC

William & Anita Hooker
Cherryville, NC

Susan Isley
Donna Zorn
Asheville, NC

Judy & James Ward
Raleigh, NC

Helen & Daniel Medford
Zara & Lana Yousef
Denver, NC

Albert Crownover
Arden, NC

Daniel Crownover
Arden, NC

Lynn & Jon Randolph
Graham, NC

Ron, Cindy, Finn and Noell
Boling, Cary, NC

Dr. Sarah Zimmerman
New York, NY

Sara Schwendimann
Fayetteville, NC

David Schroder
Davidson, NC

CBC Members Enjoy a December Bonus Trip to the Outer Banks

By Steve Shultz - Editor of The Chat

Photos by Lori Arnet

December on the Outer Banks of North Carolina… Nor'easters, blowing salt and sand, hand warmers and hot chocolate after a wonderful day of birding? Or is it spring-like temperatures, calm wind, t-shirts, sunscreen, and a cold beverage after a wonderful day of birding?

In a La Nina year like the winter of 2021-2022, the latter was the case as coastal North Carolina bathed in a pool of warm air. In no way was this not appreciated by 22 members of the Carolina Bird Club who explored refuges, beaches, and marshes north and south of Oregon Inlet on the first two weekends of December.

The first in-person field trips sponsored by the Club in nearly two years due to the rapidly-becoming-endemic-pandemic were a big hit. Originally scheduled for the weekend of December 4-5, overwhelming response led to an "encore" the following weekend in order to accommodate all those who wanted to experience the Outer Banks in early winter.

Members met in the shadow of Bodie Island's historic 1872 lighthouse before traveling to the remnant inlet at what has affectionately become known as "Split Pea" (since it split Pea Island into two). Here, under calm, early morning conditions, each of the three maritime sparrows (Nelson's, Saltmarsh, and Seaside) perched up for inspection while hordes of Marsh Wrens chattered away. Shorebirds tottered back and forth on sandy flats, Palm Warblers and Savannah Sparrows vied with meadowlarks to stake

prime territory on lightly vegetated ground, and overhead, fighter-like harriers and Cooper's Hawks could be compared with the United States Marine Corps AV-8B Harrier II aircraft shooting along the coast.

Leaving the sparrows to their morning routine, we moved north to the conjunction of New Field and South Ponds. Here was the star of the show, the "rarest", although not necessarily voted as favorite, bird of the weekends, Hudsonian Godwit.

One of the great attractions of North Carolina's coastal refuges in early winter is the sheer number of birds on the impoundments. Tens of thousands of ducks, geese, and swans made for an impressive sight, especially under sunshine and favorable weather. From time to time an eagle or other irritant would spook hundreds or thousands of birds into the air at once, always a jaw-dropping experience.
And while an earnest sea watch across from South Pond revealed little in the way of migrating ducks, sea or other, gannets put on a show, displaying nearly every possible plumage while harassing otherwise innocent schools of baitfish. And the entertainment extended onto the beach where a recently alive, but by then very much deceased, thresher shark allowed for close inspection. Staying in the carcass vein, we used the handy bodies of a young gannet and pelican to point out salient features, providing visual reinforcement to field marks often studied from afar.

Pushing north to Oregon Inlet, birders enjoyed the new "Bonner Fishing Pier", all that remains of the Bonner Bridge now that big brother Basnight Bridge soars over the sea. The pier may well become a prime birding spot in this and future winters, as it provides heretofore unavailable views of the new and old bridge abutments that often act as magnets for uncommon sea ducks. And instead of waiting for a Purple Sandpiper to decide on making a public appearance, folks can now look directly down on the haunts of these northern visitors. Indeed, "purps" were seen well on both trips. This also appears to be a great spot for Great Cormorant, just a great little bird that can be hard to find along the coast, but was rather easy to locate these weekends.

In addition to acting as an ad hoc picnic area, the spot ponied up an Audubon's form of the Yellow-rumped Warbler for first weekend's attendees, this form being quite uncommon in the state. First trippers also enjoyed a stunning, sunning bittern and somewhat casual walkabout from a Clapper Rail. This was followed by the main event, a slap-down, smackdown, titanic clash of Clappers. Two rails battling for marsh dominance. Who would reign supreme? Actually we don't know, they both looked the same.

Jennette's Pier always offers something, even if, as we experienced, that something is mainly scenic. Shrimp trawlers plied trade just offshore, grackles examined spotting scopes hopefully, and we continued to wonder why Rock Pigeon continues to have a red circle in eBird when there is a permanent residency of some two dozen birds.

Optional evening dinners were well-attended, one at Blue Water Grill and the other at Basnight's Lone Cedar. Here, over aperitifs and appetizers, birds were catalogued, considered, and debated. Each member offered their "top bird of the day", and more than a little amount of reportedly-local seafood was enjoyed.

Sundays followed Saturdays, as they often do, with more birding. Clean-up runs along the coast helped to fill in missing, but expected, species. Rolls of film went to memorializing avocets, Tundra Swans with landing gear engaged, and other avifaunal wonders. After lunching at White's Service Station, often an experience in and of itself, the groups repaired to Alligator River NWR for a drive through and around the fields and impoundments, although in this drought-stricken season, fields often doubled for impoundments. On the first weekend Black Bears frolicked in the sole accessible corn field, while on the second they were strangely absent.

But present at the end of both trips was agreement that early winter along the coast of northeastern North Carolina is indeed a magical time, full of whirring wings, wind-up toy shorebirds, skulking sparrows and, so important in this day, a chance to get together and enjoy what we all share, a love of the outdoors and birdlife that make North Carolina a great place to live, visit, and bird!

Spring 2022: Back to the Mountains

Déjà vu? You bet! Hopefully the third time is the charm. The spring 2022 meeting will be the third attempt at a return to the mountains. Fingers crossed! As was planned in 2020 and 2021, the Spring CBC Meeting will be in Black Mountain, NC about 10 miles east of Asheville, so it will be time to brush up once again on those mountain warblers and other neotropical migrants that typically breed or travel through the mountains of WNC.

Black Mountain is close to the entrance to the Blue Ridge Parkway, so many of the trips will be on or near the parkway both north and south of Asheville as well as in the adjacent Pisgah National Forest, all great places for migratory songbirds. Expect typical mountain breeding species such as Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue, Chestnut-sided, Canada, Worm-eating, Blackburnian, Swainson's, Cerulean, and many other warblers as well as many tanagers, grosbeaks, thrushes, vireos, and possibly the always unpredictable Red Crossbills. Other sites visited will be along the Blue Ridge Escarpment and at local parks, good places for many other species, and at Max Patch, a historically reliable spot for Golden-winged Warblers and many other warblers.

Meeting dates are Thursday, May 5th to Sunday, May 8th.This slightly later date than the typical spring meeting should mean many more breeding species will be back. It's also a great time to find some of the more northerly species coming through. For those who wish to get a head start on warbler identification, we hope to have a trip leader from Ventures Birding Tours available to provide a warm-up class on Thursday evening, so you'll be ready to head out with confidence on Friday morning. On Friday evening Simon Thompson will be discussing something with which we are all familiar, "Pandemic Birding." More on that in the next issue. On Saturday evening John Carpenter of the Wildlife Diversity Project, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, will discuss the progress on the long awaited North Carolina Breeding Bird Atlas, why it was started, participation, and some early results. It is never too late to get involved as 2022 is only the second year of this five year project.

The meeting will be held at the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly at the Blue Ridge Center, a hotel-like facility, but not a for-profit hotel, on a large, beautiful, wooded property with miles of walking trails and good birding on-site. As this is not a hotel, reservations will be made through CBC. Total cost for single rooms for three nights including three breakfasts (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) and two dinners (Friday and Saturday evening) will be $374, and double rooms for three nights including three breakfasts and two dinners will be $225 per person (there is no tax as this is a non-profit facility).All meals are buffet style and include gluten free and vegetarian choices.

Those not staying at the facility can purchase tickets in advance for meal/meals only. For those staying only two nights the rate will be reduced accordingly. There may also be an opportunity to purchase bag lunches for those going out on all-day trips if planned sufficiently ahead. All rooms have two queen beds and include access to Wifi, but have no TV's or refrigerators. Bring a cooler if you need to keep something cold. Ice will be provided on-site. As this is a YMCA facility, alcoholic beverages must remain out of sight of the public and can only be consumed inside guest rooms and meeting rooms.

More in-depth information and trip descriptions will be provided in the next newsletter, but will be basically identical to the information provided in the spring 2020newsletter if you'd like to look back and refresh your memory now. Updates on any potential medical regulations for attendance such as vaccinations or mask wearing will be provided in the next newsletter. Here's hoping all will be well and we will be able to meet again this coming spring. See you there!

Carolina Bird Club
www.carolinabirdclub.org

Carolina Bird Club
1809 Lakepark Drive
Raleigh, NC 27612

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Upcoming CBC Meetings

Winter 2022 - Outer Banks, NC - January 13 - 16, 2022
Spring 2022 - Black Mountain, NC - May 5 - 8, 2022

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stevepath1@aol.com

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Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of December, February, April, June, August, and October.
www.carolinabirdclub.org

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Membership dues include access to publications: the *CBC Newsletter* and *The Chat, which is only available on line.* Tax deductible as allowable by law.

Cost for CBC bird checklists, including postage: 10@$5.45, 25@$13.40, 50@$27.00, and 100@$54.00.

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